



CAN
TODAY'S
ACTORS
ACT?

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A LOSING
TEAM?

The great
selection debate
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Half of today's flights are cancelled

BA threatens to end perks of strikers

By PHILIP BASSETT AND HARVEY ELLIOTT

BRITISH AIRWAYS cabin staff who join the 72-hour strike due to start this morning will lose perks and promotion for three years — and face a lock-out after the stoppage unless they promise to work normally.

The threat of immediate sanctions came as the airline prepared to cancel scheduled flights from Heathrow and Gatwick. Similar cancellations will follow tomorrow and on Friday, and the Transport and General Workers Union is expected to call further three-day stoppages next week and the week after.

BA split out its hard line even as it held last-minute talks with union leaders aimed at averting the strike due to start at 6am. The company said that anyone striking today would lose their staff travel concessions until March 2000, become ineligible for promotion until the same date, and lose the option of applying for early retirement or severance pay.

Strikers would also be telephoned and asked to promise not to join any future action. If they refused, they would not be rostered for work from Saturday and therefore not paid. Managers accepted that the tactic could lead to further disruption, since the company might not have enough staff to fill the rota, but an official said: "We are confident we can restart services on Saturday."

BA is also reserving the right to dismiss strikers and



has said that it might sue individuals for its losses — an unprecedented move in British employee relations. The airline believes that it has already lost more than £15 million in future bookings.

But the tough approach was attacked by Labour MPs who signed a series of Commons motions on the dispute yesterday. Twenty condemned the "mischief management" of the chief executive Robert Ayling, and a handful backed Ken Livingstone's motion supporting the strike, even though Tony Blair clearly wants to keep his Government out of the conflict.

The TGWU, which is negotiating on behalf of its members who belong to the British Airline Stewards and Stewardesses Association (Bassas), claimed that there had been major intimidation of its members but George Ryde, the union's national air transport secretary, said: "We are confi-

dent that the union's strike call will be supported by its members." Another official said: "We regret that even at the 11th hour, BA is still concentrating on intimidation and confrontation rather than negotiation."

The union yesterday asked the company to negotiate on an agreement accepted by the more moderate union Cabin Crew '89 and imposed on all 12,000 cabin staff two months ago. But Sir Colin Marshall, the chairman, refused, saying: "This deal is what they wanted for many years and it was reached months ago. We can't rewrite it. We can't go on revisiting the issue."

"This is a dispute about rivalry between two unions and is extremely unfortunate and regrettable. But we can't go on having problems like this. I am sure they will want to target our annual general meeting next week, and the sooner it is over and done with the better, so we can have a return to common sense."

Cabin Crew '89, which broke away from the TGWU eight years ago and now has about 3,500 members, described the deal it negotiated as "the best in British aviation". Gordon White, the national secretary, said: "British Airways cabin crew are now paid 25 per cent more than others operating in any other airline. But Bassas are resentful of our deal and have misled and misinformed their members in a shameful manner before leading them to a strike."

"It will only cost jobs because customers who are forced to fly on other airlines simply will not come back. We have seen what has happened to PanAm and TWA and it will happen to BA if this kind of nonsense goes on. To put crew members' jobs at risk when there is no good reason is unforgivable."

Cabin Crew '89 claims that it is recruiting 50 members a day because people did not want to go on strike, and 1,113

Confirmed on page 2, col 3

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John Monks, page 18

FLIGHT INFORMATION

BA says that the following services will operate today, however many cabin crew report for work:

■ All domestic and European flights in and from Gatwick. ■ All international flights to and from UK regional airports; ■ All UK domestic services other than those serving Heathrow.

■ All flights operated by British Regional Airlines, Brymon, Loganair, Marks Air, GBAir, Air UK, Cityflyer Express, TATANIA, Deutsche BA.

Qantas, Comair, Canadian International, America West, Sun Air and British Mediterranean.

The following services from Gatwick are cancelled: Atlanta, New York, Lagos, Charlotte, Kano, Phoenix, Kingstown, Baltimore and Harare. More information is available from travel agents, on ITV Teletext page 380, on the information hotline 0800 727800 and on the Internet <http://www.british-airways.com/strike/>.

What is undeniable is that the elegant figure of Mrs Machel is seldom far from the President's side, though close

Nelson Mandela and Graca Machel arrive hand-in-hand at Heathrow yesterday

Mandela's open secret

By RAY KENNEDY AND DANIEL MCGROarty

NELSON MANDELA and

Graca Machel made no secret of their obvious affection as they arrived at Heathrow yesterday for a three-day visit to London. But the South African President was coy about whether he will marry his official escort, the widow of Samora Machel, the former president of Mozambique.

The couple exchanged private jokes on their way to visit the Queen for tea at Buckingham Palace, but seemed perplexed at the fascination with their relationship. He made jokes about it. She appeared embarrassed.

What is undeniable is that the elegant figure of Mrs Machel is seldom far from the President's side, though close

President's hand and led him to his limousine before he could betray more. An hour later, as they strolled to their Dorchester suite, the couple again held hands as they faced more questions about their relationship. Asked bluntly if he will marry Mrs Machel, Mr Mandela squeezed her hand, and said: "Those are questions one doesn't discuss in public."

He teased that while he was meeting the Queen, the Prince of Wales and Tony Blair in the next 72 hours, the real reason for his trip was as "the companion" of Mrs Machel, 51, who receives an honorary degree from Essex University tomorrow.

A United Nations emissary for children, she gripped the

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A United Nations emissary for children, she gripped the

Interest rates set to rise after surge in inflation

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, CHRISTINE BUCKLEY AND PHILIP WEBSTER

MORE increases in interest rates to control consumer demand appeared inevitable yesterday after a surge in inflation last month.

The Bank of England is expected to raise rates at least a further quarter-point to 6.75 per cent tomorrow. That would add £14 a month to an average £50,000 mortgage. Homeowners already face a £10 a month increase in mortgage costs as a result of the cut in interest rate relief (Mirras) announced in last week's Budget.

Politicians in all parties voiced concern yesterday over the impact of a still strengthening pound on exporters. Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, said it was now the "major threat to Britain's economic well-being".

Wet weather and increased mortgage costs combined to send the headline rate of inflation rising to 2.9 per cent in June. It meant that Gordon Brown's target of 2.5 per cent for underlying inflation had been missed in his first full month.

There were jitters through the Stock Market with the FTSE 100 closing down 52.3 at 4758.5. But the pound soared to a six year high against the German mark of DM2.97 before declining slightly to DM2.963.

Mr Clarke warned Eddie George, the Bank Governor, to hold back on interest rates. He confirmed that he had rejected the Bank's call to raise rates in the months before the election because he felt the pound was already too strong.

Most Labour MPs have supported Mr Brown's decision to give the Bank operational charge over interest rates, but some are beginning

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mortgage costs. Prices of seasonal foods, which normally fall during the summer, also showed the largest June increase since 1978 due to last month's wet weather.

David Coleman, chief economist at CIBC Wood Gruen, said: "Setting interest rates according to the weather might be stretching bearishness a little too far."

High Street prices of household goods and clothing and footwear, which have enjoyed strong sales recently on the back of windfall payoffs, actually fell slightly in June. Service sector inflation also declined from 3.3 per cent to 3.2 per cent.

Separate data produced by the Office for National Statistics showed that tax changes announced in the Budget will eventually add 0.4 per cent to the rate of inflation.

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Uxbridge by-election on July 31

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Government will face the first test of its standing since the general election at the end of this month.

The Conservative Party is to announce today that a by-election will be held at Uxbridge, Middlesex, on July 31. The Tory-held seat became vacant on the death of Sir Michael Sherby, who held it with a majority of 724 but died soon afterwards.

The timing is seen as Westminster as acknowledgement by the Tories that the Labour honeymoon has some time to run. The plan had been to delay the contest until September in the hope that the Conservatives might have recovered enough by then to give themselves a springboard to the annual conference.

But senior Tories now believe it would be a risk to delay, if the seat were to be lost on July 31, the impact would be less severe than it would be nearer to the conference. The Tory candidate is John Randall, a local businessman. Labour is putting up Andrew Slaughter, a barrister.

Nolan proposes jail for abuse of public position

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

MINISTERS, civil servants, police, magistrates and judges could face jail or a fine if they seek advantage from their public position, Lord Nolan, the public standards watchdog, proposed yesterday. The rule would also apply to any person on a public body or quango.

In a consultation paper published to coincide with his Report on Standards in Local Government, Lord Nolan proposed a new criminal offence called misuse of public office. He called for debate on whether the offence should also apply to privatised companies, such as public utilities, and also to bodies such as grant maintained schools, training and enterprise councils, housing associations and further and higher education institutions.

The new offence is intended to replace the current penalty of surcharging local government members and officials, but would have a direct impact on Whitehall and 40,000 members — many volunteers — who serve on some 1,100 quangos. It also aims to discourage

Nato agrees to new members

Nato leaders have agreed to invite Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic to join the alliance in time for its fifth anniversary in April 1999.

The decision followed a day of fraught negotiations at the Nato summit in Madrid, during which President Chirac of France had tried to include Romania and Slovenia in the first wave of new member states from Central and Eastern Europe. A determined stand against an expansion of five countries was mounted by President Clinton and Tony Blair.

The district auditor is expected to carry out investigations on any financial losses, and the police would investigate any other matter. Any decision to prosecute would be taken by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Lord Nolan said at a press conference in Westminster yesterday: "We really felt there was a serious gap in the law. Surcharging in the past was only applicable to councils and we really believe it should apply across the board."

He joked that his committee was particularly anxious that the new offence should apply to judges and said: "It will apply a much fairer law and the penalty will be tailored to the offence."

Peter Riddell, page 10

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Lords on shaky ground over Dome that's not a dome

Thunder shook the Palace of Westminster yesterday afternoon as the Lord Elton rose in his place for Question 3: "To ask Her Majesty's Government how they will ensure that it will be clear to all those visiting the projected Millennium Dome that it was built to commemorate the anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ." Nobody does these things better than their Lordships. The Archbishop of Canterbury had looked in to hear the answer, which was discouraging.

Hmm. This was less than

ing and came from Lord McIntosh of Haringey, speaking for the Government, but not — as he made clear — for the Church of England. The object of millennium celebrations would be, he said, "spiritual and physical renewal". He did not mention anyone's birthday but added (rather limply, some of their Lordships thought) that the occasion was significant "both for Christians and for anyone who measures time by the Gregorian calendar".

The Archbishop of Canterbury rose. Anyone hopeful that an archbishop might use

ringing. Lord Elton reminded the House that all a rather Orwellian-sounding "Minister without Portfolio" (Peter Mandelson) had said was that the millennium was "a chance for Britain to make a big statement about itself". It would be, he said, "a reaffirmation of faith in the nation's future". But what about the rock on which that faith was founded, asked Lord Elton: the Church?

The Archbishop of Canterbury rose. Anyone hopeful

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

such an occasion for a robust restatement of the metaphysical claims upon which his gorgeous robes, palaces, galleries, mire, dignity, salary and all the trappings of his office depend, is out of touch with the modern Church of England. Dr Carey said he was most appreciative of this Government's recognition of the

Church's desire to be involved. Would that apply inside the Dome, too?

Thanking "the Most Reverend Primate", Lord McIntosh weakened his commitment further, adding that others too would be involved but that "spiritual renewal" included Christians. This was most reassuring. And too much for

Lord Longford. Spluttering to his feet, he protested. This was "a Christian country, the millennium should be approached in that spirit".

Lord St John of Fawsley joined the sceptics: "What exactly is going to be inside this Dome?" It was "not a dome at all" in the sense that "St Paul's, St Peter's and St Sofia's domes" were domes. It was, announced Lord St John, "a sort of marquee tent or wigwam". Peers giggled. Lord McIntosh, feebler by the minute, conceded that the

Dome was not a dome. And, as to what was in it, that "is for good causes".

For the Conservatives, Lord Inglewood, demanded an assurance that the millennium celebration "will happen" and that it would be "as claimed" "the best on Earth".

Lord McIntosh declined to answer on the grounds that he suspected a trap.

Lord Elton returned to the fray. What did ministers mean by talking of the future? The future began 2,000 years ago. To this came no response from Her Majesty's Government.

Ministers knew Drumcree 'game plan' weeks ago

By NICHOLAS WATT AND AUDREY MAGEE



Mowlam sought solution until very last moment

MO MOWLAM, the Northern Ireland Secretary, faced a barrage of criticism from nationalists yesterday after a leaked Government memo showed that ministers had resigned themselves weeks ago to forcing the Drumcree parade through a Catholic area.

As republican violence shows no signs of abating, John Hume, the SDLP leader, said that the document had seriously damaged the Government's relations with nationalists.

Yesterday afternoon a gang burnt out the 3.00pm Dublin to Belfast train at Newry, Co Down, soon after it had crossed the border into Northern Ireland — the second train to be destroyed this week. Six masked men claiming to be from the IRA boarded the train at the station and ordered passengers to leave.

Loyalists display their weapons

By NICHOLAS WATT
CHIEF IRELAND
CORRESPONDENT

LOYALISTS sent a blunt message that their ceasefire has ended in all but name when a group of masked men brandished automatic weapons on a Belfast street.

Acting with the consent of the Combined Loyalist Military Command, which is supposedly observing a ceasefire, the terrorists staged the publicity stunt hours after a Protestant terrorist blew himself up. Dressed in jeans and sports shoes, the terrorists waved two AK-47 automatic rifles, an Uzi submachine gun, an SA80 rifle and a Heckler and Koch rifle in the Woodvale area of north Belfast.

yesterday. During an acrimonious meeting at Stormont, Mr Hume castigated Dr Mowlam over the Government's handling of Drumcree and the leaked memo. Dr Mowlam has launched an inquiry into the leak.

The Northern Ireland Office memo showed that Dr Mowlam and her senior officials recognised as long ago as June 20 that the security forces would have to force the Orange Order march down the mainly Catholic Garvagh Road. The document, marked confidential and referred to as the "game plan", said that a controlled parade would be the "least worst outcome".

Dr Mowlam said yesterday:

"I worked until the last possible moment along with others to achieve a peaceful accommodation. As the document said, the chief constable had not taken the decision and he did not do so until the night before the march. All feasible options were genuinely under consideration until the very last moment."

Ray Burke, the Irish Foreign Minister, relayed Dublin's concerns about the parade during a meeting with Dr Mowlam. Irish government sources said that Dublin's criticisms in public were deliberately soft because ministers believed that Dr Mowlam was a force for good.

The nine political parties at yesterday's Stormont talks agreed that they should resolve the decommissioning of arms issue by July 23. There is little likelihood that they will reach agreement.

□ Tour operators have started to abandon Northern Ireland and holidaymakers are cancelling bookings because of the violence of recent days. The Northern Ireland Tourist Board said yesterday that a German and an American company had cancelled coach tours and diverted to Co Donegal in the Irish Republic.

fast. Drawn from the Ulster Defence Association and the Ulster Volunteer Force, which form the loyalist command, they walked up and down a road for about five minutes at about 10.30pm on Monday.

They told a reporter from Ulster Television they were defending the Protestant community from an upsurge in republican violence, then disappeared down a side street.

The stunt was designed to boost morale among hardline loyalists after a notorious member of the UDA killed himself as he attempted to defuse a bomb.

Brian Morton, 34, died instantly when the device exploded in a field behind a loyalist housing estate in the Dunmurry area of south Belfast on Monday.

BA perks threat

Continued from page 1
cabin staff reported sick yesterday in what BA saw as a sign that many Bassa members were against the stoppage. On an average day, about 120 staff call in sick. The airline also said that an increasing number of TGWU members had registered their intention to work normally today.

The high sick roll meant that 30 flights were cancelled yesterday, but the airline has increased its estimate of the number of services that will take off today. It now expects to run about a third of its short-haul and European services to and from Heathrow, half of its intercontinental flights from Heathrow and a third of its intercontinental flights from Gatwick.

Passengers who arrive at the airport to find their flight has been cancelled will be

given meal vouchers and phone cards while staff try to book them on other airlines or on Eurostar. Check-in desks and lounges will be operating normally and BA staff will be on duty on the Eurostar platform at Waterloo.

The airline has booked more than 3,500 hotel rooms near the airports for passengers who cannot get an alternative flight today and for non-strikers. Other employees will be collected by coach or taxi. Strike-breakers will not be required to wear uniform, to avoid identification by pickets, and security staff will patrol employees' car parks.

BA also intends to video the picket lines, which the TGWU has said will become parties with strikers invited to bring their families along.

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John Monks, page 18

WHO'S WHO IN THE STRIKE

Bob Ayling: Chief Executive of British Airways, aged 52. Since taking over as chief executive from Sir Colin Marshall at the beginning of last year he has introduced a series of cost cutting measures with the cold eye of a lawyer and a former senior civil servant. Joined the Department of Trade in 1973. His talent was quickly spotted by Lord King and in 1985 he was appointed legal director. Later he also became company secretary.

He is a Labour supporter. Mike Street: Director of Operations. Now 49 he joined the airline in 1963 as a teenage apprentice and worked his way up to be head of the whole flying programme. He attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology before returning to Heathrow and appointed director of operations in December 1995. Mr Street is now responsible for a £2.7 billion budget and for flight

crew, worldwide fuel purchase, logistics management and properties worldwide.

Bill Morris: General Secretary of the TGWU, aged 58. One of Labour and the TUC's senior figures and Britain's first black union leader. The Labour leadership has warmed to him as one of the most helpful of the big union leaders.

George Ryde: TGWU's national aviation secretary and its chief negotiator in the BA dispute. Aged 49, the former London dustman in his youth played in a pop group called the Dearstalakers, who took in 1962 a version of the old Coasters' hit "Little Egypt" into the charts. Respected by BA, he fought unsuccessfully to stop the breakaway Cabin Crew 89 union from forming. He is well regarded by the leadership as the head of one of the few sections where membership is rising.

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Josie tells how killer demanded money

Police say motive for hammer deaths was robbery or bizarre fantasy

By Lin Jenkins

JOSIE RUSSELL, who was left for dead in the brutal assault which killed her mother and younger sister a year ago, has now been able to tell police that the attack may have started as an attempted robbery.

Her painstaking recovery from the brain damage she suffered has allowed her to describe how the attacker demanded money. Her mother, Lin, 45, pleaded for their lives, before she, Josie's sister Megan, 6, and the family dog were repeatedly bludgeoned with a hammer in woods near their home at Chilenden, Kent.

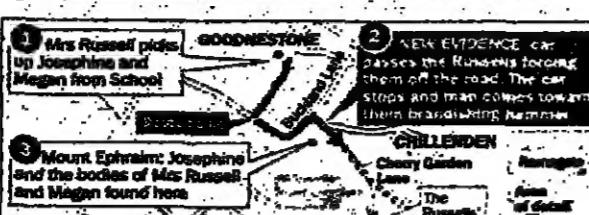
Detective Chief Inspector David Stevens, leading the inquiry, yesterday gave what he described as a sanitised version of the account given in recent weeks during interviews with specially trained officers. "She had not long got into the lane when a car passed her from behind. They continued walking. As they rounded a bend, the car was in front of them," Josie thought it was a reddish colour.

"As they approached the car, the man removed a hammer from the rear parcel shelf. He walked over to Lin and the children, and said, 'Give me your money' and 'I want your money.'

"Lin said 'No'. She did not have any money, anyway. He



Lin Russell and Megan, who were bludgeoned to death. Josie heard the attack on her mother



repeated his demand for money, and Lin said, "I will go home and get some, I don't live far away." The man began his vicious attack. Lin shouted, "Please don't hurt us."

"She shouted to Josie to run, and Josie ran off towards a nearby house, the only house, which was unfortunately temporarily unoccupied. The man chased her, grabbed her,

and brought her back." The family was ordered into a glade and tied with a ripped-up towel. Josie almost certainly heard her mother's injuries being inflicted on her. Thank God she did not see it.

The man actually asked Josie if her bindings were too tight. He began searching through the lunchboxes, which we know had nothing

in them. Lin was hit again. The man then does not speak any more. She did not see her sister, Megan, being hit by the hammer, or Lucy, the dog, but she saw an awful lot. She has described someone similar to that we have in the E-fit.

What Josie has told us is pretty traumatic. It has massively helped our inquiry, but I have mixed emotions, because Josie had to live through that — perhaps it was better that she had no memory of it."

The account was pieced together first by using models and pictures, and then as Josie regained speech, in halting words, since May.

Mr Stevens said her account suggests the man might have been a robber — "or it could be that money was a deception, a deceitful motive for dialogue. Perhaps it was instead of, 'I want to murder you.' It could still be a person who had an awful, bizarre fantasy which became reality this day."

Police plan to resume interviewing Josie in a fortnight, but over the anniversary of the deaths will leave her with her father, Shaun Russell, 46, who has moved with Josie from Kent to North Wales. He said that his daughter would spend anniversary of the murders at school as usual.

"She wants to walk home from school and I won't let her," Mr Russell said. "I don't want to tell her, 'There is a murderer out there who might



Josie Russell on the anniversary of the murders. Her father said: "She has given me cause for carrying on"

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"She wants to walk home from school and I won't let her," Mr Russell said. "I don't want to tell her, 'There is a murderer out there who might

still attack you.' It is still a struggle to argue with her about things like that. But there is someone out there who could harm her. He and his daughter who are not planning to mark the anniversary in any special way, do not make a special event of Lin and Megan's birthdays.

"We are not going to be indulging in any morbid ceremony. I am not going to put on a black tie or anything like that. There are plenty of times you are reminded about it.

"On Sunday morning I was at the grave. It is still like a dream to me to have to look at the names of my wife and

daughter on it — such young people."

Mr Russell, a botanist, who has just completed a contract at Kent University, will spend some of the anniversary preparing to find a job. He said his dark despair in the days after the murders were removed only by Josie's needs.

Suicide had crossed his mind more than once. "When I realised Josie was still alive and needed help, my whole way of looking at life changed.

"She is a normal, wilful, strong-minded little girl. The person I am looking after has given me cause for carrying on."

New genetic checks narrow the search

By Lin Jenkins



E-fit image of the man police want to interview

ONE hundred suspects are to undergo a new type of genetic test to discover whether they murdered Lin and Megan Russell a year ago.

Tests developed specifically for the murder inquiry have revealed a DNA profile of the suspected killer, from hair found at the murder scene. The tests can detect mitochondrial DNA in dead hair where previously a living cell was required. Each gone takes three weeks to produce results and only a few can be conducted at a time.

Detective Chief Inspector David Stevens, who is leading the inquiry, said the test, devised by Dr Janet Thompson, head of the Forensic Science Service, was a breakthrough. "We have a profile so we have something to compare suspects with. Unfortunately the test has to be carried out on dead hair and cannot be checked against the DNA database."

The first 100 to be tested will be selected from the 1,400 people already interviewed — a group which "very possibly" includes the killer, he said.

Little forensic evidence had been found because the killer was clever and removed items from the murder scene. A child's swimming towel he had torn into strips to gag and bind the three, had been removed and dumped in a hedge nearby. The murder weapon has not been found.

"I am sure that this offender was forensically aware. This

person does not want to be caught," he said. However, he maintained, that Operation Scribe was close to catching the killer. "I have great anticipation that the anniversary will give us information that will be very relevant."

Mr Stevens appealed to wives, girlfriends and mothers to come forward if they had reason to suspect someone. He also called on solicitors, doctors, social workers and prison officers to do the same. People should not be dissuaded by fears that they might be wasting police time. "It could be vital piece of information if linked together with others. Let us be the judge of the relevance."

Inquiries have taken up to 50 officers around the country and also to France, Belgium, the United States, Australia, Africa and South America.

Electronic pet may make monster out of owners

By Anjana Arora

AFTER the Tamagotchi, the portable electronic toy that has to be "fed" and "watered" to survive, the next playground fad will be aimed at teenage boys. The Digital Monster will also have to be "nurtured", but owners of the virtual dinosaur will be able to send their pets into combat.

The monsters will have to be fed "protein" as they grow. The square hand-held units can be linked together and animals can be moved from one unit to another to engage in battle. The welfare of the creatures will depend on whether they are given workouts and training sessions before each bout, how well they are treated after injuries and how many fights they win.

Digital Monster will be launched two months ago in Britain, and is still a sell-out. Two jumbo jets full of the toys arrive in London from Tokyo every week. The egg hatches to reveal a small chick, and owners have to attend to its every need. Diligent carers, who carry the creatures around on a pendant, are rewarded with appreciative sneaks, and their pet reaches adulthood and then goes to heaven. Unhappy animals snarl and squeak at their

keepers. The current record "lifespan" for a Tamagotchi is 32 days. It is estimated that 20 million people in Japan — one in six of the population — own one.

However, their popularity has been viewed with caution. Teachers have complained that the animals which sleep if they require attention, disrupt classes. Psychologists have said that some children can be traumatised by the "death" of their electronic animals. Some are even said to be causing children who derive pleasure from inflicting long, lingering deaths on their charges.

Tamagotchi could also face a threat from the 10 Micro Pet, a British cyber puppy that boasts a memory chip twice as large. Its Swindon-based manufacturer, Bluebird Toys, said the pocket-sized electronic puppy would teach their owners more traditional petcare skills, largely because of its ability to foul the carpet if left unattended. It also can sing, howl, do tricks, change facial expression, mate, and, if unhappy, run away.



Aimed squarely at boys: the Digital Monster

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Mother holds third coach victim as he dies

Survivors flying home to school in mourning for holiday victims

By RUSSELL JENKINS

KEITH RIDDING'S mother arrived at his hospital bedside just in time to cradle him in her arms before he died, the third teenage victim of Monday's school coach crash in the French Alps. Carole Riddings was able to hold and kiss her 14-year-old son before he died in the early hours, the boy's head teacher said yesterday.

As the surviving pupils prepared to fly home last night, a stream of children, some with their parents, went to St James's Church of England School at Barnworts, near Bolton, to pay their respects to their dead and injured friends, who had been on a week's adventure holiday. Dozens of bouquets were laid at the gates, each with its own handwritten message of condolence for the three pupils — Nicola Moore, 15, Robert Boardman, 14, and Keith Riddings — who died when the coach plunged off the mountain road into a ravine.

David Bowes, the head teacher, said he had had an early morning telephone call from Barbara Stanfield, head of modern languages, who had accompanied Mrs Riddings to Grenoble. She told him that Keith had died "quietly with his mother beside him".

Mrs Bowes said: "We are grateful thank God, that she was able to get them to hold him and kiss him and to be with him at the moment he died. We are very sad about the outcome but we are grateful that Carole could be with her son at that time."

He said that Mrs Riddings and the teacher were able to rejoin the 12 pupils flying home to Manchester airport on a plane chartered by insurers. Only one girl, who has back injuries and has to be moved on a stretcher, was staying behind. She will return today with a doctor and one of her teachers. Yesterday she had not been told of the details of her friend's death.

Keith was particularly close to the dead girl.

There were 23 people on board the coach, including the 12 schoolchildren, their two teachers, four other adults and the driver.

Yesterday morning, groups of children emerged briefly into the sunlight at Bourg St Maurice hospital, one of two survivors have been treated. The other was at Moutiers, where the coach driver, Jim Shaw, was being treated for broken ribs and bruising.

Andrew Leigh, 35, head of PE at St James's School, said: "When the children found out about the death, they handled it in different ways, but they have all helped each other out. Last night we went out, watched the sun set and said a few prayers and talked about those who had died."

Mr Leigh was with another group of pupils, on a walk, and did not find out about the accident until eight hours afterwards. The children had paid £320 each for the holiday and were to have returned to the North West on Saturday.

They were staying at a chalet in the village of Plan-Pelvey run by an English couple who call their company Alpine Action.

Richard Chant, an instructor who survived the crash, said that the children not involved in the accident were distraught. "You can imagine what the atmosphere is like."

Jean-Michel Olivetti, who treated the children at Bourg St Maurice, said: "They are all well. We gave them sleep to help them sleep and they spent a good night. They have not yet seen a psychologist, but we hope that will be organised for them in England."

One teenage boy was on the coach when it crashed yesterday. The coach slipped off the road, rolled over, jolted in the air, rolled again, spun in a tree and stopped.

Investigators in France said last night that many more children would have been killed had the roof or the sides of the bus, rather than the chassis, borne most of the impact when it hit trees in the ravine near Notre Dame du Pr.

Mr Bowes said the school would stay closed until Monday, when pupils and staff



A Frenchwoman and child at the crash scene yesterday. Investigators said that the way the coach hit the trees kept the death toll down



Warning sign on the road before the crash scene

would take part in a special service to thank God for the fact that we are all together and pray for the families of the three precious youngsters who died.

"We are a church school," Mr Bowes said. "We care for one another. The children are God's children. They are special gifts. As they come home we want to hold them close."

Nicola Moore, who died instantly at the crash scene, was an outstanding pupil whose report was littered with As, Mr Bowes said. She was popular, vivacious, lovely and enthusiastic, with lots of friends and huge potential. "I have just read through her report. It is all As, an outstanding girl, a real star, a keen athlete and sportswoman and enjoyed being friends and sadly their lives are cut short."

The bouquets at the school gates carried poignant messages from fellow pupils. One said, "You will always be in our minds"; another, "To all my friends in God's safe hands".

A party from the school in Holland as part of the "curriculum enhancement week" is returning overnight; another party of younger pupils camping in Wales will go home a day early. "The school gates, its doors and certainly our hearts will be open to everybody who wishes to be here with us," Mr Bowes said.

He was "totally reliable and utterly co-operative with everybody", Mr Bowes said. "He was growing in confidence and we were watching him flower as a wonderful human being."

Keith Riddings, cheerful, friendly and always helpful, was Robert's best friend. They even changed classes and subjects so they could be together. They swapped Red Dwarf videos, Mr Bowes said. "They were full of life, carefree and enjoyed being friends and sadly their lives are cut short."

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Robert Boardman, one of two close friends who died

Euro 96 steward 'stabbed employer'

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A STEWARD at a Euro 96 football match stabbed and kidnapped his female employer after she refused him pay for letting in spectators to the England-Switzerland game, a court was told yesterday.

Nicola Lewis, 25, was found dead by Carver Fisher two days after she told him

that he was not doing his job properly by allowing in about 20 people who had not paid. She wept as she told the Old Bailey jury how Mr Fisher had stabbed her, shouting: "When you go to hell, you will always remember my name."

Mr Fisher had been hired by Miss Lewis, who worked as an administrator for a security firm, the day before the match on June 10. Miss Lewis described

how Mr Fisher had hit her repeatedly on the head with a hammer, slashed her arms and chest with a flick knife and tried to strangle her. After the attack she had managed to crawl to the door before losing consciousness, then woke up in hospital.

Mr Fisher, of Tottenham, north London, denies attempted murder. The trial continues.

TA woman says rape left her on drugs

By JOANNA BALE

A FORMER Territorial Army private told an industrial tribunal yesterday that she had been dependent on anti-depressant drugs after nearly three years of "institutionalised harassment".

The woman says that after she was raped by a captain and punched, indecently assaulted and sexually insulted by other male colleagues she was unable to form relationships with men.

She sobbed quietly as she told the tribunal in central London, which is hearing her sexual harassment claim: "My self-confidence had been completely destroyed. I had got to the point where I would accept virtually anything by way of bad treatment."

The 35-year-old woman from London, who served in the TA from 1992 to 1995, said: "I realised, having made my decision to leave, that I had become extremely depressed and withdrawn. I couldn't sleep properly and I couldn't think properly."

"I went to see my doctor and was prescribed Prozac. I'm still taking that. I remember that after my resignation I found it very difficult to go outside. I would stay mainly in the house, usually in bed with the curtains closed."

Under cross-examination, she admitted signing forms to extend her service. She said that she had hoped to win promotion as a lance-corporal. She denied that her resignation had been brought about by her fear of failing imminent examinations.

The case continues.

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Drama schools are booed for failing to teach Shakespeare

BRICKBATS were thrown at drama schools yesterday for failing to train young actors in Shakespeare and classical dramatists. The schools were accused of ignoring speech and literature and leaning too heavily towards television.

Adrian Noble, the artistic director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, said the new generation of drama graduates did not match such actors as Kenneth Branagh, Mark Rylance, Ralph Fiennes and Alex Jennings, whose "gift with words" he compared with the work of Laurence Olivier, Ralph Richardson and Alec Guinness.

Mr Noble, whose company is auditioning for "Twelfth Night", said that acting suffered without grounding in classical drama. He was dismayed at the performances of some younger actors.

Through classical drama actors could relate poetic language to thought and meaning. "It comes down to the craft, a love of language" — classical theatre equipped actors to explore "the soul, emotions and terrors".

Opening his copy of "Twelfth Night" at one of its most famous lines, "If music be the food of love, play on", he spoke of shape and form, and how Shakespeare wrote in verse to help the actors to convey meaning. Such understanding nourished the ear as well as the eye of the audience.

Young actors show lack of grounding in classics, Dalya Alberge reports



Classic acts: Olivier and Richardson

"There is a tendency in drama schools to teach behaviour rather than acting," he said.

"If you play King Lear or Viola, you're required to bring to bear upon it an imagination, a quality of passion and breadth of passion that is beyond behaviour." Drama school was all the more important because of the demise of repertory theatres where actors once learnt their trade.

Mr Noble's views were echoed by other leading directors. Jonathan Miller said: "Over the years, because of the success of performance art, language has somehow be-

come perceived as trivial and that what matters is the experience of the body. There has been a rejection of literature."

Commenting on diction, he added: "People don't pronounce and clarify. That's regarded as somehow elitist, the possession of the middle classes."

John Barton, an honorary associate director of the RSC, who is working on another *Playing Shakespeare* series for television, said: "It's not a British problem. They are worried about the same thing in America, where I do a lot of Shakespeare workshops. They

also complain that they cannot get a classical training.

"Good young actors come to Stratford and are terrified of Shakespeare because they've not had the grounding. Very few actors can pick up a Shakespeare play and handle it straight away. But training was not wholly to blame," Mr Barton said. Actors were no longer stretched by appearing in large theatres, as most were working in television and small theatres.

"I remember 30 years ago, people would project and have better diction. Naturally, in an increasingly visual culture, with more television and film, that doesn't make the same linguistic demands."

Cicely Berry, voice director of the RSC, expressed sympathy for drama schools, which had to train actors to earn a living. Training must prepare them for television and music as well as theatre.

Professor Stanley Wells, director of the Shakespeare Institute at Birmingham University, said: "Quite often, I feel deficiencies in speaking, deficiencies in actual understanding. I certainly found this once or twice in the National's *Leah*. People were accenting the wrong words."

Sir John Gielgud said he was fortunate to have played in Shakespeare and other writing with "fine language": "I always appreciated it and read a great deal." Diction



Deserving applause: London children taking a bow for a performance of *Julius Caesar* at the Globe Theatre

was "terribly important", he said, lamenting the damage done by microphones.

Mr Noble added: "The acid test is whether or not actors are in command of the form and own the language. Unless they have, they haven't cracked it."

Professor Bob Fowler, principal of the Central School of Speech and Drama, whose graduates have included Lord Olivier, Dame Judi Dench

and Vanessa Redgrave, said that British theatre training was as good as any in the world, but students did not leave as fully-fledged actors.

"Like a driving test, once the students are on the road, it's up to the directors to take on the job."

Drama schools were let down by the education system. Professor Fowler said: "Thirty years ago, students came with a vocabulary of Shakespeare

from school. They knew at least two Shakespeare plays. He said that Sir Cameron Mackintosh, another ex-Central student, had founded the chair of theatre at Oxford, which has not been held by Shakespearean or classical scholars: "It's been held by Stephen Sondheim and Arthur Miller. That's the way the world is going."

Leading article, page 19
Drama, page 32

Drought blamed for rise in drinking water pollution

Nick Nuttall reports on the nation's liquid assets

DROUGHT has been blamed for an increase in incidents of foul drinking water. Bacterial contamination of the mains network is also on the rise with the warm weather suspected of allowing the bacteria to thrive.

Overall, the quality of the nation's drinking water, including toxic metals and pesticides, continues to improve, a Drinking Water Inspectorate report said yesterday. Compared to the rest of Europe, British drinking water is among the cleanest, the inspectorate said.

However, Michael Rouse, the chief inspector, said there was concern over the way water companies were managing their distribution net-

works. Their efforts to maintain pressure and keep drinking water circulating in some areas during the past three years of drought was causing new difficulties in maintaining high standards. Underground and river resources, which had previously been judged too contaminated to consider, are being brought into use to supplement dwindling resources.

Water companies are involved in a range of new activities which are leading to sediments in mains and local pipes, in some cases decades old, being flushed up into household taps. These actions

aimed at tackling the drought, include experimenting with pressures and altering, and in some cases reversing, flows in mains and other supply pipes.

Mr Rouse said that the new management tactics had been accompanied by a rise in cases of discoloured water and water that smells different.

Water companies were partly to blame and the inspectorate was investigating, he said.

"We will prosecute water companies if they make mistakes and supply discoloured water," he said. "I am asking water companies involved to consider urgently how they might improve the operation of their distribution systems."

Mr Rouse said that the inspectorate had urged water companies to step up disinfection of supplies when pressures drop or burst occur. Some experts believe that, during the current drought, the water companies are dropping pressures to stop water escaping from tiny leaks to conserve supplies. It is feared, however, that this will allow soil organisms, including the stomach parasite cryptosporidium, to enter the mains network.

Figures for 1996, released

yesterday, show that the num-



Prêt à porter: a multicoloured tunic featured in the sale

Clothes auction offers glimpse of Street fashion

BY JOANNA BALE

FOLLOWING hot on the heels of Diana, Princess of Wales, the broadcaster Janet Street-Porter is to auction her wardrobe at Christie's. There may not be the kudos of a royal connection, but the Princess's sale featured neither a blouse with printed pink teddy bears nor a fluorescent pink mini-dress.

The auction includes more than 60 items, worth £6,000, which date from the early 1950s to the late 1980s and includes designs by Zandra Rhodes, Vivienne Westwood and Ossie Clark.

While the Princess of Wales's dress size fluctuated from 8 to 12 during her unhappy marriage, Ms Street-Porter has remained a stick-thin size 10, according to Christie's.

Among the most dazzling creations are a turquoise silk blouse and wrap-over skirt printed with bold African-inspired pink and red flowers. It was made by Zandra Rhodes for Ms Street-Porter to wear at Elton John's wedding to Renate Blauel in 1984. Its value is estimated at anywhere between £25 and £200.

The same designer's vivid pink jersey top and trousers, worn by Ms Street-Porter in 1976 when she married the journalist Anthony Elliott, the second of her four husbands, was inspired by Elizabethan costume and is estimated to be worth £200 to £300.

The sale also includes a 1950s multicoloured sequinned and beaded tunic with a "comedy tragedy design" bought in Hollywood, and a "beach outfit" which includes a minidress, belt and bonnet of red and blue squares.

Also by Zandra Rhodes and dating from 1965-67, is a fluorescent pink mini-dress in "Mr Man and Lightbulb" print, a pair of high-waisted shorts of white cotton printed with lipsticks and a blouse with printed pink teddy bears.

Jill Potterton, of Christie's, said: "She was 50 quite recently and I think she wanted to have a big clear-out. She sold her collection of fans recently to finance a new kitchen at her home in east London. I think she will use the money from this auction for something similar."

The collection will be sold in London in September.

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Marchers take their fight for field sports to heart of London

Michael Hornsby previews plans by hunt enthusiasts for a mass rally

TENS of thousands of demonstrators are to converge on Hyde Park in central London tomorrow in the biggest show of support for hunting and field sports ever seen.

Hunting enthusiasts are hoping the Countryside Rally will send a strong message to Downing Street about the resentment felt by country dwellers at the perceived threat to their way of life from an intolerant and ignorant urban majority.

A Private Member's Bill to outlaw hunting with hounds, which was tabled last month by the Labour MP Michael Foster, is scheduled for a second reading in the Commons on November 28, and is almost certain to receive the backing of a majority of MPs.

Defenders of country sports are hoping that the Bill will run into trouble in the House of Lords and the committee stages of its passage through Parliament and eventually

run out of time. Whether the Bill succeeds is likely to depend on the legislative importance attached to it by the Labour leadership.

A delegation of those attending the rally will travel in a double-decker bus to deliver a petition to Downing Street. This is expected to remind Tony Blair of the wish he expressed during the general election to represent the whole country and not just sectional interests.

A rival animal welfare petition, protesting against the killing of wildlife for entertainment and signed by 1.5 million people, is to be delivered on the same day by another backbench Labour MP, Kerry Pollard.

The rally will open at 11am with a speech by Robin Hanbury-Tenison, the explor-



William Hague's fiancée, Ffion Jenkins, is persuaded to tickle a ferret on their visit to the Great Yorkshire Show at Harrogate yesterday

Hague defends country freedoms

Leader's backing will initiate pro-hunt campaign. James Landale reports

er and Cornwall farmer who since 1995 has been chief executive of the British Field Sports Society, which is organising the protest.

On taking office, Mr Hanbury-Tenison said he saw the hunting of foxes and deer as "conservation culling". He added: "Of course, we are all opposed to gratuitous cruelty, but I would defend all the refined methods of country sports in Britain which have, over time, eliminated all elements of cruelty and are now the kindest and best way of maintaining the countryside."

Among other speakers will be Baroness Mallalieu, who heads Leave Country Sports Alone, a pressure group formed three years ago to represent the small but influential minority of Labour MPs and supporters openly opposed to a ban on hunting.

Many of the more than 300 hunts in Britain, as well as country estates and businesses, such as saddlers and livery stables, have given their employees the day off on Thursday so that they can attend the rally. Scotland and Wales and every county in England will be represented at the rally, their presence marked by balloons bearing their names.

Plans to stage various musical entertainments, including a concert of French hunting horns, have been abandoned because the Royal Parks Agency said that would turn the rally into an "event", for which the organisers would be charged much more.

The League Against Cruel Sports said yesterday it had instructed its followers to stay away from the rally. John Bryant, the league's chief spokesman, said: "The last thing we want is a punch-up."

WILLIAM HAGUE will throw his support behind the thousands of country dwellers descending on London tomorrow for a mass rally in defence of their rural ways of life.

The Tory party leader will attend the demonstration in Hyde Park protesting against plans to ban hunting and other country sports. His decision to back the pro-hunting lobby means that the Tories will mount a strong campaign in Parliament against a Bill introduced by a Labour MP to ban hunting with hounds.

Conservative spokesman said that Mr Hague, who does not hunt, did not believe the issue was just about hunting but about defending basic freedoms. "His view is that you have to defend freedoms even if they are unpopular."

Although Mr Hague will be expressing his personal support and will give Tory MPs a free vote on hunting, he will urge them to join him in defending country freedoms.

A Conservative spokesman said that Mr Hague, who does not hunt, did not believe the issue was just about hunting but about defending basic freedoms. "His view is that you have to defend freedoms even if they are unpopular."

As part of his campaign to

show his support for country matters, the Tory leader and his fiancée, Ffion Jenkins, yesterday tickled ferrets, visited other animals, and discussed country matters with visitors at the Great Yorkshire Show in Harrogate. Mr Hague, whose constituency is in Richmond, North Yorkshire, met huntsmen from the area and reaffirmed his support for hunting, saying it created jobs and helped con-

servation. The Government has given its tacit backing to a Private Member's Bill introduced by Michael Foster, Labour MP for Worcester, to ban hunting with hounds. The Bill, which will prohibit hunting foxes, deer, hare and mink, comes up for its second reading in November and is likely to be supported by most Labour MPs. However, the Bill will be fiercely opposed in the Lords.

Supporters converge by road, rail and air

CENTRAL London can expect severe congestion tomorrow as upwards of 80,000 people converge on Hyde Park for the rally in support of country sports (Michael Hornsby writes).

The British Field Sports Society, the rally organiser, says that at least 65,000 people will be brought to the capital in 910 coaches and 12 chartered trains. Thousands of others are

expected to make their own way.

Coaches will drop rally supporters at different points round the capital, including Wembley stadium, Ealing Common, Earls Court and the Victoria and Vauxhall coach parks. They will travel on by Underground.

About 130 people who set off last month to march to London from points in Scotland, Cumbria, Wales and Devon will be picked up at a service station near South Mimms on the M25 and be taken by bus to Hyde Park. The police refused to

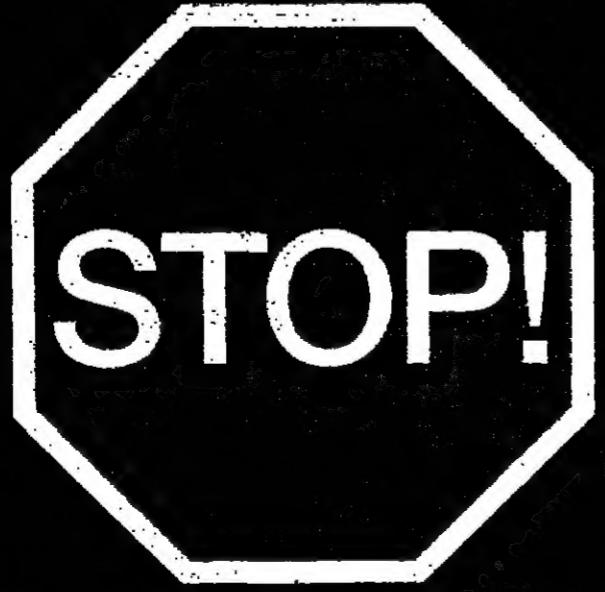
allow them to walk through London.

The rally, which runs from 11am to 2pm, will be held at a spot known as Reformer's Tree, on the avenue running south from Speaker's Corner, where early campaigners for public speech met in the 19th century.

Police have ordered that no placards or banners may be carried, but demonstrators will be allowed to wear T-shirts printed with slogans.



Alan Coren, page 18



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| Damascus & Amman | BA6703/BA6702 | Bangkok, Sydney & | Nairobi & | | |
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BRITISH AIRWAYS

Council must pay for autistic boy to attend special school in US

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE parents of a four-year-old autistic boy celebrated victory at the High Court yesterday when a judge ruled that their local education authority must pay for their son to attend a £50,000-a-year special school in America.

The decision secures James Finn's place at the Higashi School in Boston, Massachusetts. His parents had managed to pay for his education there for two terms through local fundraising, but Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council had refused to help when the couple's money ran out.

Yesterday Mr Justice Dyson ruled that the authority was obliged to continue paying the school fees as long as it considered the Higashi School the best place for the boy.

However, the judge also ruled that authorities had no obligation to name a specific school, meaning the chance of securing a place at Higashi is still unlikely for most parents.

Solihull council was appealing against a special educational needs tribunal ruling in February that named Boston Higashi as the appropriate school for James from Shirley, Solihull, and said the local authority was under a duty to pay his fees.

At an earlier hearing Cherie Booth, QC, had told the judge



Noel and Julie Finn at the High Court yesterday

that the boy's parents, Noel and Julie, had secured him a place in January after raising funds through raffles, discos and dances. But their money was running out and James would shortly have to leave. Solihull council had refused to take up the funding, arguing that as the parents were already managing to keep their son at the school it was not obliged to become involved.

However, the judge said that was simplistic of the council, which was breaching its duty of care as it had agreed the school was the most suitable place for James. "It is unreasonable for the authority to seek to relieve itself of its statutory duties by relying on parents to raise finance in this way," he said.

After the ruling the council gave an undertaking to pay James's fees of £50,000 a year "indefinitely".

However, the ruling brought disappointment to two other families who had hoped the judge would overturn a refusal by the same special educational needs tribunal to name the Higashi as the most appropriate school for their three autistic boys.

Julie Richardson, from Solihull, the mother of Ben Simpson, 5, and Angela White, from Ealing, west London, who has twin sons, David and Simon, 7, both claimed the Higashi School offered the best chance of giving their children normal lives.

Yesterday Mr Justice Dyson said the councils were entitled to decide the Higashi was "inappropriate" for the boys and to make no specific decision as to which school the boys should attend. But he granted leave to appeal after agreeing the cases were of "general public importance".

In one case, he said the tribunal had been particularly concerned about aspects of the Higashi School after being told by an educational expert that it allowed "physical contact and shouting beyond anything which would be permitted in any UK school".

Rita Murray, secretary of the UK Boston Higashi School Parents' Association, said hopes that yesterday's case would provide clear guidance to help parents of autistic children had been dashed. While welcoming the success of the Finns, she said the judge had interpreted the provisions of the 1996 Education Act in a way which went against the wishes of parents and the best interests of their children.



James Finn will stay at the Higashi School in Boston after the ruling yesterday

Intensive therapy gives hope to children

HIGASHI schools expand a revolutionary philosophy in dealing with autistic children. The schools, whose title is derived from the Japanese word for hope, act on a principle called daily life therapy, which was pioneered in 1969 in Tokyo by Dr Kyo Kitahara (Kathryn Knight writes).

The therapy is intensive and aims to encourage independence among those affected. It is based on the principle that self-awareness leaves the children less isolated and frightened.

Teachers at the two schools, in Boston and Tokyo, are uncompromising in their expectations of the pupils, who range in age from three to 22. They are also encouraged to run around and shout and scream to burn off excess energy. Both approaches are criticised by educationists.

So far 50 British families have educated their children at the Boston academy, and many are now in mainstream schools back in Britain with some educational support. Some were unable to talk or do anything for themselves; now they can speak, operate a computer and feed and dress themselves.

Parents of the 26,000 autistic children in Britain are increasingly keen to send their offspring to the school. Last month David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, said that he would support the establishment of a Higashi school in Britain.

Dementia drug 'too costly to prescribe'

By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE first drug to be licensed for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease is so expensive that many health authorities are not allowing doctors to prescribe it or are delaying making it available. Six months after the Medicines Control Agency approved the drug, Aricept, only six health authorities have approved it, ten have advised doctors against the drug and the other 88 have yet to make a decision, a survey by the Alzheimer's Disease Society has found.

The drug has limited effectiveness but in the early stages of the disease can give a period of alleviation from the forgetfulness and dementia that typify the condition. "This gives sufferers an all-important window of opportunity when they and their families can prepare for the future," Simon Denegri, of the society, said.

However, the drug costs £1,200 a year for each patient, well above the average amount that most health authorities spend on treating patients with dementia. The health authorities that have refused to allow the drug to be prescribed have told the society that there is insufficient evidence to support its viability and cost-effectiveness.

The six health authorities allowing the drug to be prescribed are Merton, Gloucestershire, Southampton and South West Hampshire, Manchester, Northern Ireland, Eastern and Isle of Man. Those who have refused to prescribe the drug are Worcester, Bradford, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Suffolk, Enfield, East Kent, Dyfed and Powys, North Wales and South Staffordshire.

Beware headache which strikes at sudden speed

MEDICAL BRIEFING

EMMA PREECE, the 14-year-old whose personality and intelligence won her the chance to interview leading politicians for the BBC, died suddenly from a brain haemorrhage recently.

As well as the sadness such a death induces, it will also cause a shadow of apprehension in all those who fear that their headaches are a warning of an impending stroke.

They can be reassured: most headaches are the result of tension, problems with the neck, or migraine. Serious causes of headache are comparatively rare.

Dr Clifford Rose, the medical director of the London Neurological Centre and the Princess Margaret Migraine Clinic, says: "There are more than 100 causes of headache; differentiating between them is not always easy and often requires specialised knowledge."

Patients either with a persistent headache, particularly if it occurs every day, or one that comes on with lightning suddenness when they are normally headache-free, should always see their doctor. This is especially important if the headache is associated with fainting, nausea, convulsions, any eye symptoms or neck stiffness.

The common cause of a cerebral haemorrhage in a younger person, such as killed Emma, is usually the rupture of an aneurysm, the condition in which a length of cerebral artery has a weak wall so that it balloons out — rather like a weak spot on the inner tube of a bicycle tyre. These weak patches are most liable to burst between the ages of 25 and 50. The aneurysm may have been present since childhood and there is often a family history of such problems.

In cases such as Emma's, the severe bleed which occurs in the rupture is accompanied by a headache of unimaginable intensity, often at the back of the head. It is the suddenness of onset which patients who recover always seem to remember.

The patient may feel sick, dizzy, suffer localised weakness or lose consciousness.

Emma seems to have had all these symptoms. She had to lie down, developed a partial facial paralysis and then died peacefully.

Emma's history appears to have been similar to the classic ones described in every textbook, but not all cases have such clear-cut symptoms.

Emma had had headaches over the past week and these had been attributed to tiredness, a common cause of tension headaches. In fact the early attacks were caused by leaking of blood before the aneurysm finally burst.

Although it is difficult to see an aneurysm on the standard scan, an angiography, in which the scan is focused on the blood vessels, will usually reveal them and they would certainly show up if they had been bleeding.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

Wine lovers declare vintage after winning back lost cases

By ROBIN YOUNG

WINE lovers who thought they had lost almost £2 million worth of top vintages yesterday won their claim to 5,000 remaining cases of wine after a six-year fight in the High Court.

When the long-established City company of Green's went bankrupt in April 1991 it was found that most of the highest-priced wines in storage for their customers had vanished.

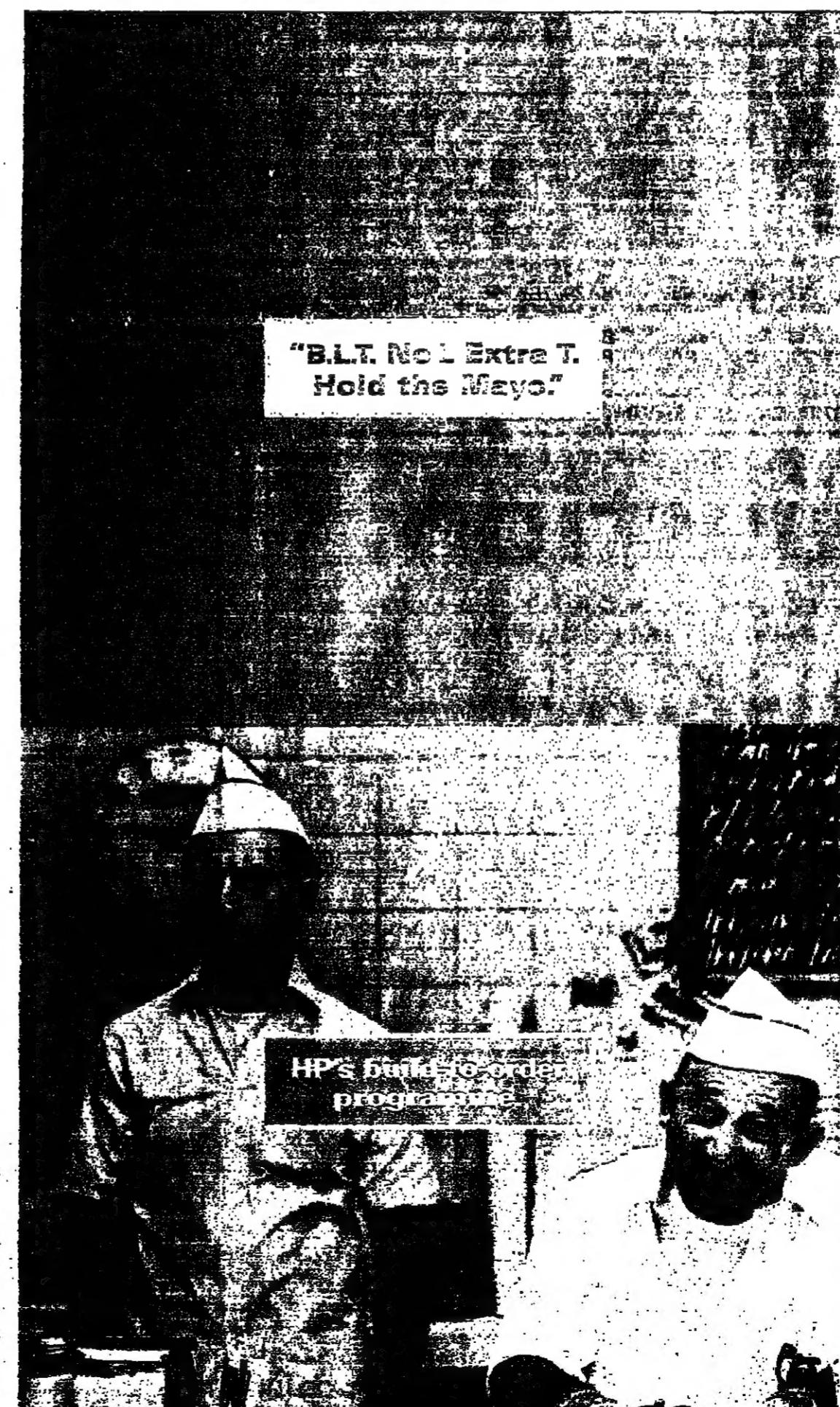
Two directors of the company were subsequently jailed for theft but Green's customers, with their insurance invalidated, found that the company's liquidator was also denying their right to any of the wine left behind.

At a High Court hearing yesterday before Deputy

Judge Roger Kay, QC, an action group formed by some 90 Green's customers among more than 500 who laid claim to wines the company had been storing, finally won its claim to almost 5,000 cases.

Under the terms of the settlement all Green's customers able to document their ownership of wines will have to pay £27 plus VAT per case for storage and £13.82 per case as legal costs.

The recent boom in prices for fine wine means that the remaining wine is probably worth more than the £1.25 million estimated at the last valuation a year ago, and some customers will recoup a substantial part of their losses. Jocelyn Harris of the Durrington Corporation, who led the action group's fight;



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Assistant jailed for assaults on patients

A CARE assistant who bullied elderly people at the nursing home at which he worked was jailed for three years yesterday.

Karl Wright assaulted his victims, aged between 63 and 99, over a four-month period at the home in Redditch, Worcestershire. Some were suffering from senile dementia and paranoid psychosis. Two were blind.

Wright laughed off his behaviour, telling other members of staff that they had no sense of humour. Worcester Crown Court was told. Wright, 25, of Redditch, admitted eight charges of common assault and five of indecent assault.

The prosecution said that many of the attacks happened when the victims were naked after having a bath or being dried. All the evidence came from staff because the victims were unable to make statements. Wright, who is married with two children, was arrested in July last year. He told police that the staff had invented the allegations against him.

"Elderly people are among

FEARS that thousands of elderly people living in residential and nursing homes may be getting poor value for money have prompted an inquiry by the Office of Fair Trading. It will also look at charges that inmates are being deprived of the right to manage their own finances.

John Bridgeman, Director-General of Fair Trading, said the care home industry was worth at least £5 billion a year and catered for more than half a million residents in up to 20,000 homes. He estimated that at least 25,000 new places would be required in homes within five years. Despite its financial and social importance, the sector had never been the subject of a review from the consumer's side.

Mr Bridgeman said he hoped that his inquiry, into public and private sector facilities, would provide a voice for the "silent consumers" who occupied care homes but who tended not to complain about conditions because they were afraid of upsetting the people they depended on.

"Elderly people are among

the most vulnerable consumers and in care homes require an allowance averaging £35.78 a week to meet their personal needs, compared to the £14.10 they are allowed under government regulations.

A spokeswoman for Age Concern welcomed this aspect of the inquiry, saying that the charity wanted residents to have as much control over their personal cash as possible. She added that staff should not be appointed to collect residents' pensions and deal with other financial affairs for them.

Mr Bridgeman said he wanted to ensure that elderly people were given sufficient information to enable them to choose the best home for them and that they were made aware at the outset exactly what services were included in the fees they were paying. "Do they have to pay for their newspapers themselves, and what arrangements are made for hairdressing?"

The inquiry will also focus on the adequacy of financial protection for residents in homes. This includes the degree of control they are allowed over their own money. According to a recent report from the charity Age Concern, elderly people in care homes require an allowance averaging £35.78 a week to meet their personal needs, compared to the £14.10 they are allowed under government regulations.

Dr Chai Patel, chief executive of the Care First group,



Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, the opera singer, after receiving an honorary doctorate from the Duke of Edinburgh yesterday at Cambridge University

Firms in front line, page 26

Birt seeks cuts to fund BBC's digital future

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

THE BBC is to cut more than 20 per cent off its budgets over the next five years to finance the digital revolution.

John Birt, the Director-General, admitted that there would be job losses as savings were made through improved technology and "multi-skilling".

The publication of the BBC's annual report yesterday revealed that 9 per cent of the BBC's income would be spent on introducing digital services. Some money will come from raising the licence fee and the sale of domestic transmitters, "but the biggest contribution will come from a further change in the BBC's efficiency, of more than 20 per cent over the next five years," Mr Birt said.

Pressed on the question of job losses, he said: "It is not possible to be very precise about what will play out ... but I do expect the workforce of the BBC to be smaller in a few years."

But he stressed that with the new digital channels there

would be more people making programmes. The job losses are likely to come from areas such as administration and engineering, as new technology allows programme makers to do more technical tasks themselves.

The BBC is poised to launch a range of digital services including 24-hour news, BBC1 and BBC2 in widescreen format and an education channel. Viewers will need a decoder which is not yet available in the shops.

In the past three years the BBC has already cut 4,000 jobs from a workforce of 22,000 in its drive for efficiency. Mr Birt said that the corporation's finances were now robust with a cash surplus of £121 million.

On programming, Mr Birt spoke in the annual report about failures in the BBC's drama output. He singled out the two costume dramas, *Rhodes* and *Nostromo*, which proved to be expensive flops.

He praised successes such as *The Mill on the Floss*, *The Crow Road* and the cult series *This Life*. "However, not all our drama has been as compelling. There is always a high degree of risk incurred in attempting to dramatise the life of a historical figure like Rhodes, or in adapting a highly complex novel such as *Nostromo*. Both proved to be a disappointment."

The Heritage Secretary yesterday refused to condemn Mr Birt's 20 per cent pay rise. Chris Smith said that it was a matter for the BBC governors, and that broadcasters operated in a highly competitive market.



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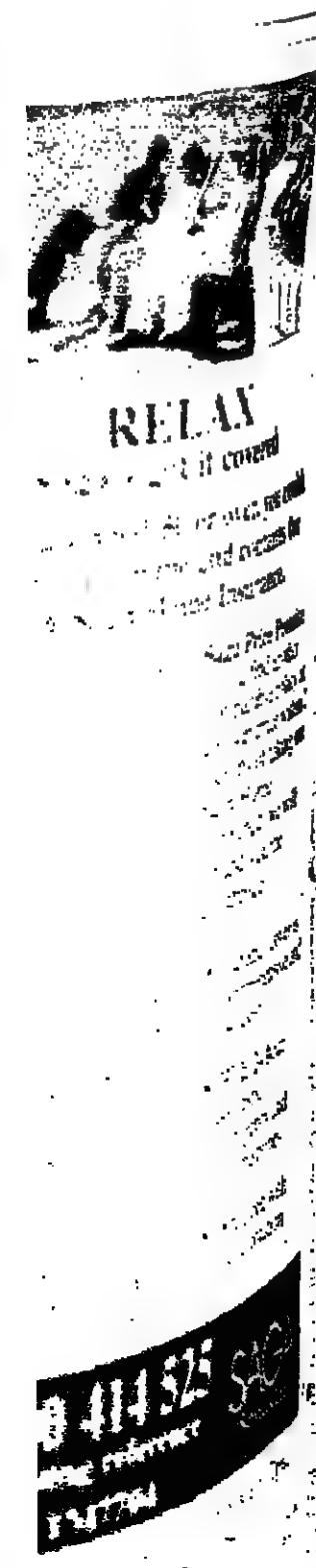
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In Madrid, from left: President Clinton, David Oddsson, President of Iceland, Tony Blair, President Chirac, Helmut Kohl and Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister

Chirac bows to Anglo-US deal

LATE-night drinks enjoyed by President Clinton and Tony Blair in a central Madrid hotel room helped to forge an impregnable partnership yesterday that persuaded other Nato leaders — even President Chirac — to reach an agreement over alliance expansion.

After both men had made it clear that they would refuse to support the membership claims of Romania and Slovenia for the first wave of Nato's expansion programme, the French President reluctantly went along with the American and British demand that accession invitations should be restricted to Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic. Invitations were duly handed to the chosen three to begin negotiations.

The climbdown by France and up to eight other Nato members saved a damaging split over what was intended to be one of the most historic developments for more than



Midnight beers helped to seal the future of Nato, reports Michael Evans in Madrid

40 years. Mr Chirac, who had caused anger by dragging the "three or five" issue right up to the last moment, agreed to drop his campaign. In return, he won agreement for the communiqué to single out the two failed applicants for special "praise", giving them real "hope" — though without a written guarantee — of joining in the second wave.

It was the alliance of Mr Clinton and Mr Blair, however, that had most people talking. Although the two had previously underlined their view that three new members was more than enough for the alliance to absorb in the first wave, their personal get-together in Mr Clinton's suite at the shiny Miguel Angel hotel

forged a new determination to outplay the French President.

Mr Clinton had invited the Prime Minister to join him after they had both attended a Nato dinner on Monday evening. Over glasses of San Miguel beer and "cheesy things", they hammered out a strategy for resolving the dispute with those backing a bigger expansion.

Although Cherie Blair had not accompanied the Prime Minister to Madrid — "she didn't want to", a British official said — Hillary Clinton popped in for a social "chat" while her husband and Mr Blair plotted the next day's events. Officials arrived to complete details near the end of the 90-minute get-together.

The impact of the post-dinner drinks became apparent when the Nato summit opened formally yesterday morning. Mr Blair said Nato had to make a "hardened" decision. If five countries joined at the same time, it would mean increasing Nato's population by 20 per cent and its borders by another 50 per cent.

He admitted to the other Nato leaders that those pushing for only three new members in the first wave — to be completed by 1999 — were in a minority. But he said, there was a firm understanding between America and Britain that expansion must be kept to three countries.

Other Nato members sup-

porting five included Spain and Italy. Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, appeared to have a foot in both camps, reluctant to drop his enthusiasm for Romania but recognising there would be consensus for only three.

The deal with France emerged when the communiqué was produced. It made special mention of progress achieved by Romania and Slovenia and referred to the importance of the Balkan region, to ensure that Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia were given encouragement to think membership of the alliance was a potential prize.

Although Mr Chirac accepted the summit deal, he confirmed that France was not yet

ready to rejoin the integrated military structure because, he said, Nato had not done enough to reform itself. He called for an alliance that was "lighter, cheaper, more flexible and more effective".

He also called for a new balance between Europe and America over the leadership of the alliance. Mr Clinton said he was prepared to let Europe have a bigger say in Nato.

Mr Blair said: "This is a realistic and sensible agreement. Of course, some other countries would like to have gone further. But this is not a political club, this is a military alliance."

■ Moscow: Yevgeny Primakov, the Russia Foreign Minister, yesterday reiterated his country's view on Nato's expansion into what was Communist Eastern Europe, denouncing it as the worst mistake to be made on the continent since the Second World War. (Reuters)

Cook threatens veto in Rock row with Spain

BY MICHAEL BINYON AND GILES TREMLETT

BRITAIN yesterday threatened to veto Spain's entry into Nato's integrated command structure if Madrid does not lift military restrictions on movements in and out of Gibraltar.

Asked if the Government would block Spain's entry, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, replied: "Yes, we can and, yes, we will, unless there is an agreement."

He said that, if Spain were to

take part in the integrated command structure, it must behave as an ally. Britain wanted its military aircraft to use Spanish airspace to go in and out of the Rock. He said that for the past two months Spain had refused to discuss proposals that Britain had made.

Yesterday Spain remained defiant. Abel Matutes, the Foreign Minister, said his country would not lift any restrictions that might affect its rightful claim to sovereignty. His statement made clear that he was referring to the movement of aircraft, as Gibraltar's airport is on the isthmus which Spain claims as its territory.

In a BBC interview, Mr Cook insisted that Britain would never agree to a Spanish sub-regional command having any direct command over Gibraltar.

"That is not on the cards." If a new regional command was set up in Madrid, Gibraltar would cease to be part of the Nato Atlantic command reporting to a sub-regional command in Portugal, and troops there would report directly to Britain.

Spain is also locked in a quarrel with Portugal over Nato jurisdiction of the seas around the Canary Islands.

At present these fall under the Atlantic command, but Madrid says that, since the islands are Spanish territory, it should have special sea lane access to them over which it has command. The rest of Nato has dismissed this as ridiculous.

Bosnian Serbs told to halt police abuses

BY MICHAEL BINYON

NATO yesterday gave the Bosnian Serbs a final warning that it would not tolerate a return to violence, violations of human rights or undermining of the Dayton accords.

The statement did not

spell out the threat, freely voiced here, of a commando operation to seize Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, the leading figures wanted for war crimes. As one official said: "If we were going to do that, we would hardly announce it to thousands of journalists."

Joy and sulks in 'city of peace'

IS THIS the future of Nato? Presidents, Prime Ministers and envoys from more than 40 countries, from Iceland to Kyrgyzstan? Military strategies lost in a sea of regional squabbles and local sensitivities? An army of bureaucrats and a building the size of six aircraft hangers to house journalists from Europe and North America, not to mention the Japanese?

There have been few such unwieldy summits. The chosen 16 have assembled according to a hallowed tradition: sweeping in, limousines bounding jauntily over to their Spanish host, José María Álvarez, bidding for the cameras and sitting at the vast table with the centre spiced by a floral Nato logo.

For them, it was business as usual: an extra large chair brought in for the 19-stone Helmut Kohl, a lunch made less digestible by the horrors of Bosnia, haggling about money and a lecture from an American Senate delegation calling itself Shog (Senate Nato Observer Group) on the need for Europe to do more to take care of itself. There was also some high-minded talk about safeguarding liberty, enshrining democracy, stopping nuclear proliferation and making Madrid as the summit poster boy, a "city of peace".

Almost twice as many leaders, however, arrived by the back door. They are waiting for their turn today when the grand first working session of the new Europe-Atlantic Partnership Council groups together Nato, its supplicants,



Michael Binyon in Madrid examines the unwieldy army of bureaucrats and envoys from more than 40 countries

applicants and sceptics and even those countries such as Switzerland, which have emerged from their Alpine isolation and are experiencing for the first time the joys of political summits.

The beaming leaders of the three winning delegations are the belles of the ball. Gyula Horn of Hungary, Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic and Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland are being initiated into the mysteries of membership and everyone wants to be seen in their company. For the

losers, a huge effort is being made to cheer them up, and promise that the door will open next time. The Romanians are the unhappiest, having come so far so fast and failing at the final moment.

Not all the 44 delegations here are so enamoured of Nato. The Russians are just on the polite side of a diplomatic sulk, and President Yeltsin has sent only his Nato ambassador and a little-known Deputy Prime Minister. The Belarusians, even more hostile, sent only a

Cartoonists & Writers Syndicate

Local quarrels have at least been kept at bay. The Azerbaijanis will today sit down with the Armenians, the Greeks with the Macedonians and even the British with the French. Tony Blair's men let it be known that he was scornful of any proposals for the admission of more than three applicants "coming from a country that is not itself a member of the military structure". And the French have been putting the word about that it is Britain's fixation over Gibraltar that has held up Spain's own entry into the Integrated military command.

The British Natural Law Party says the whole Nato expansion is a waste of time. It claims that the only effective deterrence is transnational mediation, and is promising today to demonstrate a form of aviation unavailable even to Nato air force planners: yogic flying.

Behrendt's view of Nato's efforts to cheer up Eastern European countries in Amsterdam's *De Telegraaf*.

From the start of the process, the frontrunners — Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic — were told that they would have to shoulder a large proportion of membership costs. In effect, that has meant scrapping ancient Soviet-built aircraft and armoured personnel carriers and buying or leasing Western (mainly American) weapons to ensure interoperability with their new security partners.

They have also had to transform their armies from being Soviet-dependent War-

Britain to escape economic fallout

BY MICHAEL EVANS

THE long wait for the three countries chosen to be new members of Nato is finally over. But now the financial reckoning begins.

From the start of the process, the frontrunners — Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic — were told that they would have to shoulder a large proportion of membership costs. In effect, that has meant scrapping ancient Soviet-built aircraft and armoured personnel carriers and buying or leasing Western (mainly American) weapons to ensure interoperability with their new security partners.

They have also had to transform their armies from being Soviet-dependent War-

and Pact forces into troops capable of fighting alongside the sophisticated Western armies. The Hungarians still have a long way to go, whereas the Polish Army has made great strides, according to Nato officials.

However, at a time when the East European nations have been struggling to develop market economies and improve social conditions since the collapse of communism, their parliaments have had to face the prospect of investing huge sums in modern military equipment.

Nato has agreed to help with basic improvements to military infrastructure, including hardening runways, replacing radar systems and developing reinforcement facilities. But every attempt is being made to limit the costs to existing Nato

members. British officials are even claiming that there will be no extra cost for the Ministry of Defence. The British share of the infrastructure costs arising from the expansion programme will be met, they say, by "re-prioritising" existing funding.

Britain currently pays £135 million a year towards Nato's common funding budget and £21 million towards the civilian budget, which includes the alliance's headquarters in Brussels.

Despite American insistence that existing Nato members will have to beef up their forces to be ready to mount rapidly deployable units to the new member states in a crisis, British officials at the Madrid summit insisted the expansion programme would not be a net cost for British taxpayers.

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Nairobi march planned to ruin Moi's big day

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

NAIROBI appeared to be heading for another bout of violence yesterday after opposition groups vowed to march on President Moi's official residence in an attempt to disrupt a regional summit.

The move came a day after ten people were killed and scores seriously injured when demonstrators were broken up by club-wielding police who arrested more than a dozen MPs on Monday. The Rev Timothy Njaya was yesterday in a critical condition after he was hit over the head several times by policemen who earlier teargassed worshippers in Nairobi's All Saints Cathedral.

Sources close to the Presbyterian Moderator said they feared he could die from his injuries. Several MPs were also still recovering in hospital after Monday's demonstrations, the most violent in seven years.

The National Convention Assembly, part of a coalition of opposition groups calling for curbs on presidential powers before elections later this year, said that thousands of people were expected to march on State House, Mr Moi's residence, where he is hosting two days of talks with the heads of neighbouring governments on Sudan's civil

war. The march is expected to be blocked. Mr Moi dislikes any form of criticism at home and has long enjoyed a role as a regional diplomatic fixer in many local civil wars.

In choosing today for more demonstrations, the protesters intend to humiliate the President in front of his fellow statesmen, including Eritrea's President Afewerki, President Bashir of Sudan and Meles Zenawi, Ethiopia's Prime Minister.

The demonstrations, billed as a national day of mourning for those killed on Monday, will be particularly galling for Mr Moi, 73, who is seen as a relic of a dying age of dictatorial-style African potentates by the younger leaders of Ethiopia, Eritrea and Uganda. The triumvirate were active supporters of Laurent Kabila's successful uprising against Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire earlier this year.

The timing is doubly bad for Mr Moi because the International Monetary Fund last week froze more than £21 million in aid when the Kenyan courts dismissed the case against a group of businessmen who had been accused of defrauding the country £300 million. The "Goldenberg scandal" was one of the most blatant thefts from the

treasury of any African country and ranks as a Mobutu-style heist, one Western diplomat said yesterday. The IMF is expected to send a team to investigate why the Kenyan Attorney-General and courts have failed to prosecute a single case in the affair.

University students who chant Mr Kabila's name to taunt Mr Moi are expected to be in the vanguard of the march on State House. Their campus residences are close to Mr Moi's official home.

Richard Leakey, the opposition politician and conservationist, said yesterday that "there is a growing attitude that we are not going to stop civil disobedience until Moi comes up with the reforms necessary to make this a genuine democracy".

Mr Leakey, a third-generation Kenyan and member of the unregistered Satima party, said that it was a "scandal" that police were deployed to break up Monday's "non-violent protests".

Students did, however, throw stones and fire missiles from slingshots in running skirmishes with the police. Many groups fear that, if they employ the same tactics during the State House march, the police will open fire with live ammunition.



President Moi hosts talks at his official residence yesterday on the civil war in Sudan

Ousted prince warns rival of civil war in Cambodia

BY BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRINCE Norodom Ranariddh, Cambodia's ousted First Prime Minister, said yesterday that his country would be plunged into civil war unless his rival, Hun Sen, began immediate negotiations to restore him to power.

"I am willing to meet Hun Sen [the Second Prime Minister] to solve this problem within the existing legal

framework but if we cannot there will be, alas, a civil war in my poor country," Prince Ranariddh said in Paris.

The prince, who fled Cambodia on Friday before serious fighting erupted, accused Hun Sen's forces of assassinating one of his allies. Ho Sok, Secretary of State at the Interior Ministry. He said Ho Sok was killed when he tried to escape. He had been arrested trying to take refuge in the Singaporean Embassy. Khieu

Sophak, the Interior Ministry adviser and a member of Hun Sen's party, said Ho Sok had been involved in "sabotage and plots". He was shot "by people angry with him".

Ho Sok was one of four senior members of Prince Ranariddh's Funcinpec party identified by Hun Sen as being responsible for two days of fighting in Phnom Penh that left at least 58 people dead and up to 200, mostly civilians, wounded.

More than 1,000 people were being

blown out of Cambodia yesterday after Hun Sen gave assurances of security around Phnom Penh's battered Pochentong airport, which was damaged in weekend fighting.

Six Thai Air Force planes arrived in Bangkok from Cambodia carrying 700 people, mainly Thais and some foreigners. The C130s had flown to Phnom Penh several times earlier in the day to pick up stranded foreigners.

More military planes were to fly

out late yesterday to ferry another 358 American, Dutch, Japanese and Australian nationals from Phnom Penh to Bangkok.

In Paris, Prince Ranariddh said he wanted to return to Cambodia to lead the resistance movement. He said he planned to address the UN Security Council in New York today. "I am asking the international community to take a clear position and to refuse to recognise a government resulting from a coup d'état," he said.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Campaign to sever Privy Council link

Washington: Commonwealth countries in the Caribbean are launching a campaign to abolish appeals to the Privy Council and appoint a regional Supreme Court (Tom Rhodes writes). A growing body of critics throughout the English-speaking Caribbean, from Jamaica to Barbados, no longer wishes to retain the council as absolute tribunal. Since a council ruling in 1993 to commute capital punishment for prisoners spending more than five years on Death Row, crime has been increasing, as has the number of commuted death sentences and the anger of the terrified population.

Meanwhile, the St. Kitts and Nevis parliament is to consider a Bill to create the nation's first standing army to combat the threat of heavily armed drug traffickers.

General deserts Plavsic

Banja Luka: Bosnian Serb hardliners took a step nearer consolidating their power as their army's senior commander appeared to drop his support for Biljana Plavsic, the president, and her anti-corruption fight (Tom Walker writes). A brief statement by General Pero Colic, who succeeded Ratko Mladic, said the Bosnian Serb Army was "removed from the political process", increasing the isolation of Mrs. Plavsic. A letter of support for her, signed by all international organisations, including Nato, said her move to dissolve parliament and call elections was wholly constitutional and in accordance with the Dayton Peace Accord.

Rusty plane just fell apart

Moscow: A passenger plane that crashed in southern Russia killing all 50 people on board was so rusted it "simply fell apart", investigators said. The An-24 two-engine turboprop aircraft disintegrated 15 minutes after taking off from the southern city of Stavropol on March 18. The crash was caused by "massive corrosion" of the plane's fuselage, said Rudolf Temurazov, head of the official investigation commission, according to the Tass news agency. The crash plane was 35 years old and had been decommissioned, but it returned to service with Stavropol Airlines after repairs. (AP)

Tamils hijack supply ship

Colombo: A crewman was shot dead as Tamil Tigers hijacked the MV Morang Bong, a North Korean cargo vessel, off Vembatkerni in the Jaffna peninsula of Sri Lanka. The ship had refused their orders to stop. The Voice of Tigers radio said the body and the other 37 crew, all unharmed, would be handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross. The 3,000-tonne craft was returning to Colombo after unloading food and other essentials in the peninsula. (AFP)

Killers in amnesty plea

Cape Town: Four blacks who killed Amy Biehl, 18, a white American student four years ago apologised to her parents Linda, right, and Peter, for what a lawyer described as an attack by sharks in a feeding frenzy. The four, serving 18-year prison terms for the murder, issued the apologies during a public application for amnesty to Archbishop Desmond Tutu's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The parents do not oppose the pleas. (Reuters)

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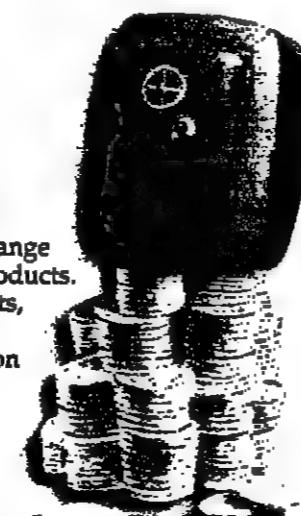
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Scientists follow dinosaurs' prints on path of discovery

FROM ROGER MAYNARD
IN SYDNEY

A DINOSAUR highway containing thousands of fossilised footprints could be the greatest discovery of its kind in the world, palaeontologists suggested yesterday.

The 50-mile pathway stretches along remote coastline near Broome, in north Western Australia. The remarkable find is regarded as so important that scientists are keeping the exact location a secret, for fear of theft and vandalism.

The site contains the largest number of footprints and the greatest diversity of species, including two-legged plant-eating dinosaurs and giant four-legged species, such as the brontosaurus and stegosaurus.

Dr Tony Thulborn, leader of the three-man expedition that found them, said the



Traces of stegosaurus, above, are 'best ever found'

footprints provided a window to the "habitats and habits" of at least a dozen dinosaur species that lived 115 to 120 million years ago. The Queensland University palaeontologist added: "There were so many, it got to the point where we'd say 'not another bloody dinosaur foot-

print'." He said the footprints ranged in size from a few inches to more than five feet.

The path was revealed after the area was hit by recent cyclones. Giuseppe Leonardi, a Naples palaeontologist, said they were the best set of dinosaur footprints in the world.

In fact, marsupials first appeared in South America around 65 million years ago, towards the end of the dinosaur era, and reached Australia via Antarctica while the three were still linked.

The plant has glossy, pointed leaves resembling holly and flowers regularly. A cutting has lived for years in a pot at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens.

Tasmania holly may be oldest plant

Hobart: Botanists believe they have discovered Earth's oldest living plant in the Tasmanian wilderness: a holly bush 43,000 years old.

The *Lomatia tasmaniaca* plant — King's Holly — is in a patch of rainforest in the island's southwestern World Heritage Area. Stephen Harris, chief botanist with the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service, said it was found in the 1930s but its age had never been suspected.

Botanists had thought the oldest living plant was a huckleberry in the United States dating back 13,000 years. The oldest tree is an Arizona bristlecone pine, dated at a youthful 4,700 years.

Mr Harris said the Tasmanian plant was a self-propagating clone. It did not produce seeds but reproduced by shedding cuttings on the forest floor which grew into genetically identical clones.

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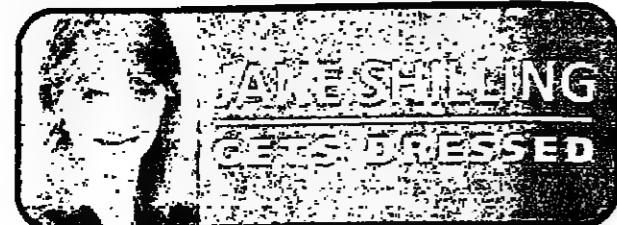
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Mrs Blair and my hairdresser



Between working all day in the office, and dashing home in the evenings to bake batches of iced fancies for the school sports club's fundraising cake stall, I do not live what you might call an interesting life. My brushes with fame are few. Non-existent, in fact. So you can imagine how thrilled I was to open the newspapers and see that Mrs Blair had stumped up a tidy sum to fly André of Michaeljohn, or My Hairdresser, as I have until now referred to him when he dropped up in conversation, all the way to America to keep her hairdo under control.

Really, I felt just as excited as if I myself had personally done something very clever, and I felt at once to ring up all my friends and saying: "Have you seen in the papers about Cherie Blair's hairdresser, André? Well, that's my André, yes the one who did that brilliant thing with my fringe."

I ought here to mention, in the interests of André's professional pride, that he is most emphatically not responsible for the hairstyle that appears in the photograph at the top of this column. That is a look which I achieved all by myself, with the scissors from my sewing box, half a can of Sainsbury's Firm Control mousse and a vicious hangover.

The thing about hairdressers mostly is how absolutely awful they are unless you happen to be Linda Evangelista — and I bet even she has once or twice had that thing when they prod you in the back of the neck with a tailcomb, roll their eyes at you in the mirror you are never allowed to look at a hairdresser's actual flesh-and-blood face: only his sneering reflection in the glass, above your own, cruelly top-lit phiz, all flushed and shiny from the backwash), and say, in the tones of Kenneth Williams impersonating Dame Edith Evans: "Oooh gawd, well so who done this?"

'I felt as if I had done something very clever'

For those of us with Difficult Hair (and it is clear from the pictures of her in the papers that Mrs Blair is a member of our club) the search for the perfect hairdresser is a bit like the quest for true love. One starts off, young and full of hope, trying this one and that one, and time passes, and age begins to creep on, and the right chap just doesn't turn up — and eventually you think: Oh dear, well, after all, one can get through life without, I suppose ... And then, just as you've given up hope, Shazam! he bursts into your life and transforms it altogether, with his innovative layering and volume at the back and artistically gnawed asymmetric fringe.

Really, I'm so pleased that at last it has happened for Mrs Blair. The only thing is, when I tried to get an appointment with André on Saturday, they said he was booked up forever. So I went to Kevin instead — and now I think it's love.

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Cardigans have lost their frumpy image to become sexy and stylish, says Grace Bradberry

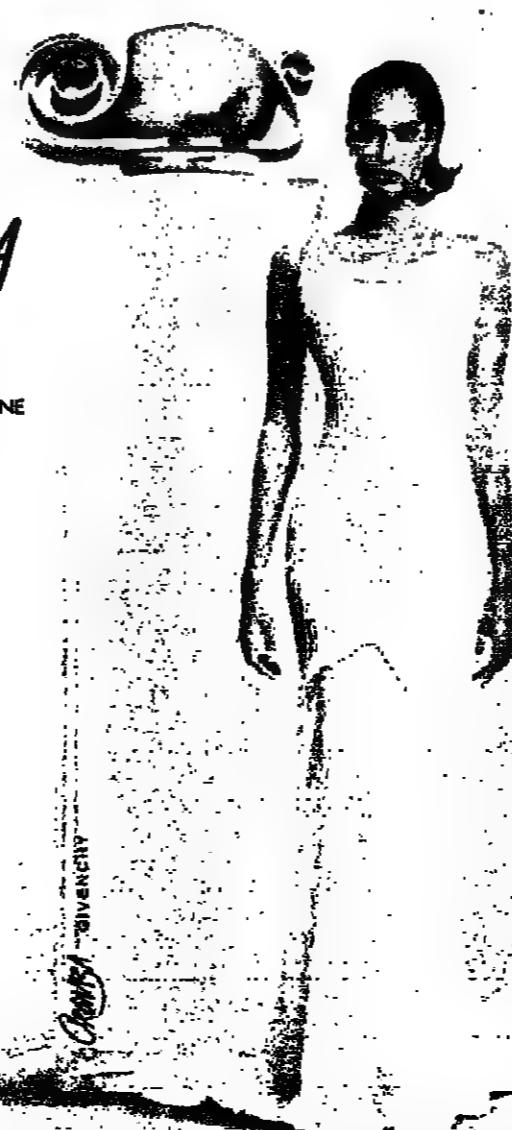


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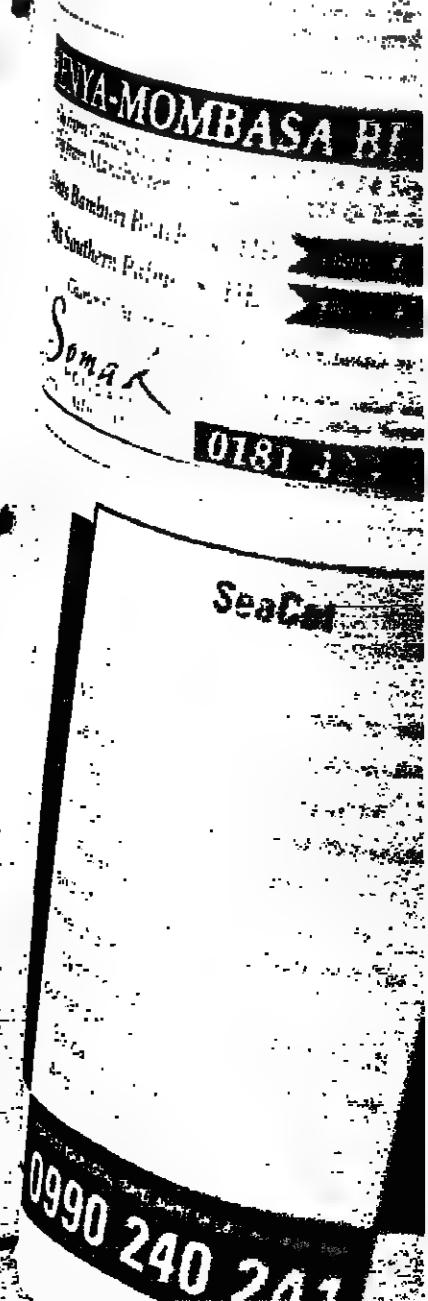
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When the upper crust cracks

Last week, Bob Hoskins called Noel Gallagher of Oasis the "greatest neighbour in Europe". The two live opposite each other in Steel's Road, Belize Park, north London. "Noel's done the street a great favour," said Mr Hoskins. "House prices have gone right up since he moved in. You don't hear a thing from his house because, he's spent a fortune on soundproofing." His raying about Mr Gallagher, however, is the exception which proves a general rule that especially among the grand and the famous, neighbourliness and viciousness are close relatives.

Last month a classic scrap broke out in the Oxfordshire village of Garsington. The villagers had become increasingly fed up with the traffic and noise caused by the annual mini-Glyndebourne held at Garsington House, home of the banker Leonard Ingrams. So they organised a sabotage. On the opening night of the festival, just as the conductor brought in the orchestra for Haydn's *Le Pescarice*, a choir of strimmers and lawnmowers started up from the neighbouring gardens. A car alarm joined in, and one angry villager even buzzed the opera in a light aeroplane. The noise ceased during the dinner interval, then began again as soon as the opera resumed. Inside the manor, black-clad guests cheered loudly after every aria.

Recently reported fights between Diana, Princess of Wales and Princess Michael of Kent and between Martha Stewart, America's Delia Smith, and her neighbour prove that no class is exempt from the feud between neighbours. In fact, the thicker the crust of respectability, the louder the noise when it cracks.

The cat-war of Kensington Palace began when Princess Michael ordered traps to be laid in the palace grounds to catch the strays which were pestering her pedigree Burmese and Siamese cats. According to Princess Michael's housekeeper at the time, Julia Dias, who is suing her former employer for unfair dismissal, Diana would crawl through the bushes to release any strays caught in the traps. When the RSPCA came to check the traps, Diana was said to have encouraged her two sons to shout "here come the cat-killers". Her loathing of Princess Michael, said Ms Dias, was not helped by the latter's habit of referring to Diana as "the stupid girl next door".

Over in the Hamptons on Long Island, the favoured weekend retreat of New York's plutocrats, Mrs Stewart has been in trouble for allegedly threatening her neighbour's gardener. Mrs Stewart may be able to churn out books on cooking, interior decoration and fashion, but when confronted with insubordinate neighbours, she lost it.

Like all the best feuds, this was a slow boiler. Mrs Stewart and her neighbour, Harry Macklowe, had been roving about a piece of land between their properties. When Mr Macklowe began ploughing earlier this year in an area that Mrs



When it comes to feuding with the people next door, the upper classes can be savage, says Philip Delves Broughton

Stewart regarded as hers, she went to the East Hampton Village Zoning Board, which decided in her favour. Mr Macklowe obtained an immediate injunction barring Mrs Stewart from removing what he had already planted, but it was too late. She had already driven home and pulled up his plants.

Two months ago, however, Mrs Stewart returned to her mansion to find workers building a fence on the disputed land. She started screaming and, according to her lawyer, "made threatening moves with her truck", resulting in a landscape gardener being bruised on the thigh. The local police chief told reporters: "We're investigating a whole list of complaints against Mrs Stewart."

For advice on her next move, Mrs Stewart might put in a call to Charles Saatchi, the advertising whizz and mod-

ern art patron, who was involved six years ago in a feud still spoken of in Chelsea as "the battle of St Leonard's Terrace". It began in 1989 when Mr Saatchi bought No 26 St Leonard's Terrace, a six-storey Georgian house, for £1.75 million. At No 25 was the Hon James Tennant — old Stonian, Cambridge graduate and the brother of Princess Margaret's close friend Lord Glenconner. Their fight was straight out of a Tom Sharpe novel, pitching the *nouveau pauvre aristocrat* against the *nouveau riche Saatchi*.

Before beginning his renovations, Mr Saatchi offered his neighbours on either side £5,000 each by way of compensation for the imminent disturbance. Mr Wynne Williams at No 27 refused the money, saying he fully understood the need for the renovations. Mr Tennant, however, countered the shah.

When Mr Saatchi had finished his

renovations, Mr Tennant's solicitors filed a complaint alleging that the work had caused £95,600 of damage to their client's property. Worse still for the publicity-shy Mr Saatchi, Mr Tennant went to the press with his tale, accusing his neighbour of destroying a chestnut tree in his garden by bolting metal light-fittings into the branches which overhung the garden of No 26. He said that when the floodlights were turned on, it made his garden look like the parade ground at Colditz. Mr Saatchi said that three pin-spot lights highlighting his grotto hardly constituted Colditz lighting. Mr Tennant then said that the £95,600 claim was just for starters, to cover redecoration, and that Mr Saatchi should brace himself for a £250,000 bill for structural damage.

Mr Saatchi's gardener complained that on several occasions, as she worked on the trellises in the garden, the Tennants' Chinese houseboy would lean over and spray insecticide straight into her eyes while Tennant mouthed orders from an upstairs window. Mr Saatchi, an Iraqi-born Jew, said that he and his wife suffered a regular stream of anti-Semitic abuse, with swastikas and notes saying "Go home Jewboy" being stuffed through his letter box.

His Rolls-Royce Corniche was attacked with acid, had its windows smashed and finally, in May 1991, was torched. The suing and counter-suing, abuse and car attacks all ceased when Mr Tennant died of a heart attack in 1992, aged 62.

Things have not yet descended so far in Carlyle Square, where, last year, Sir David Frost, whose neighbours include the Duchess of Portland and Felicity Kendal, was summoned to an emergency meeting of the Carlyle Square Committee after complaints that his children played football in the communal gardens.

Certain residents have it in for Sir David. They resent his annual summer party in the square. They wince as they see John Major and John Birt treading in the flowerbeds. His children were instructed to go to a public park with their ball rather than use the communal garden, but not before an acrimonious face-off between the committee, Sir David and his formidable wife, Lady Carina, one of the Duke of Norfolk's daughters.

With Martha Stewart under investigation, the Princess of Wales on all fours crawling through the Kensington undergrowth and Charles Saatchi counting the cost of a burn-out Rolls Royce, Bob Hoskins can thank heaven he has so far done without the two essentials for modern neighbourly relations: a good strong stick and a lawyer.



The late James Tennant and his wife Elizabeth outside St Leonard's Terrace, scene of an epic feud between residents

The true myth of motherhood + A great age of programme-making + A word of warning for Sir Terence + Austin's mission to make things better

Why having a baby at 12 needn't be such a bad thing

A 12-year-old becomes the country's youngest mother and is at once furiously upbraided and invited on to every radio and television show going. What sort of message must she — and other girls her age — be getting?

But then, what sort of message must she have received already? Her parents, who have six other children between them, have never even told her the facts of life. Do you think that they also don't yet know what's causing it?

ents. They blame the school and they blame the Government: they should really be doing something about this "tragic waste of life".

Forget, for one instant, the hideous lack of self-awareness, let alone responsibility for one moment. Does it not seem strange that a man should welcome his granddaughter into the world by hailing her "a waste of life"? There is a saying, I don't know if it's Irish or Jewish (comes to the same thing, really) which states that the child is always welcome. In some part, that should be remembered, even here.

I don't say it's ideal to have a child at 12, but some part of me wonders why we force our middle-class values and ideas on people who have no chance of sharing them. This pre-teenage mother isn't going to run Midland Bank: who's to say she isn't better off having a baby than sitting on some production line somewhere?

But it's not just premature maternity that's lambasted: these days, but motherhood in general. Itemising the woes of maternity is the coolest thing to do. Never mind how the children are going to feel when they read all this hostile outpouring (natural enough, but not for public display, surely) in later years. It seems to me that in presuming to blow one myth of motherhood, this lot are creating another.

One doesn't experience

Nigella Lawson



Pay up, it's programmes that matter

I HAVE every sympathy with the liberal angst about John Birt's pay rise. I don't, I do see, look good. I'm sure to most of them it doesn't, personally or ideologically, feel good. But what I have no time

for is the cacophonous carping of the Right. All those who trumpeted the good sense of paying the likes of Derek Lewis huge sums of money, reminding us of market values, great competition (not that it looked as if there was much marketplace scrum-mage competing for his attention) and that you can't pay peanuts if you don't want monkeys, are now seized with the wickedness of just that position.

Now they say that John Birt and his senior officers should realise that they are in public service and must expect, unassumingly, to be remunerated accordingly. Either you think that you need to pay up to have good people at the top, or you don't. Probably you do

have to. (Unfortunately, one often pays to have bad people at the top, too.)

Far more worrying, anyway, than the pay rise accorded to the managers (although not irrelevant, I accept) is the pay cut meted out to the programme makers. The BBC may be a public institution, it may be a repository of our island values, it may be a property-owning, interest-wielding crypto-commercial concern: but all that matters is the programmes. Profit or not, it's the programmes that count, and those who make them.

Those currently in charge are, whatever you like to say, presiding over a great age of programme-making. Surely that should count in all this? They must be doing something right.

A cautionary tale...

NOW THAT the divorce settlement of the Conrads has been finalised for all it's worth, commentators are opening metaphorical books on the prospect of a fourth Conrad marriage. Just in case Sir Terence is considering renewing his faith in wifeliness, I pass on to him the words of agony and experience of another much-almonded-against man, one Lewis Grizzard.

"I don't think I'll get married again," he concluded wryly. "I'll just find a woman I don't like and give her a house."

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Bad hair days — and a mission to reform

WHO can blame us if, all these Hamiltons and Aikens later, we are cynical about just what it is that motivates our politicians? But it can't always have been like this. There must have been a time when every MP came into Parliament fired by a mission to make things better. Imagine, for instance, the idealism of the once-youthful Labour member for Great Grimsby — a man who looked around his world and saw inequality and injustice and decided that he would do something about it.

There is, after all, so much scope for so much zeal: a crumbling health service, unconscionably high unemployment, soaring crime, the ever-widening gap between the haves and the have-nots.

Yesterday Austin Mitchell, the member for

Great Grimsby, did his fiery bit. He introduced a Bill to regulate hairdressers, a Bill which, such are the constraints on the current Parliament, stands no chance of becoming an Act anyway.

Now, I'm sure that every tale of green hair, bad bleaching and instant baldness which Mr Mitchell movingly related to the House is someone's personal nightmare. But to take up the crusade is, not to put too fine a point on it, a bit sad.

Perhaps this is unfair of me: maybe every citizen — or rather subject — has indeed the right not to have a bad hair day. I didn't read the small print in New Labour's manifesto, it's true. But really: how has it come to this?

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MASTERLY INACTION

The Bank must not feed the speculators by raising interest rates

Tomorrow at noon, three officials of the Bank of England plus two advisers will announce a decision which will have much more effect than Gordon Brown's Budget on the British economy in the year ahead. If the Bank decides to raise interest rates for the third time in three months, it will play directly into the hands of the currency speculators who are now making as much money by buying sterling as they did by selling it on Black Wednesday. The pound will shoot upwards and British exporters will have to start sacking workers and cancelling investment plans.

If, on the other hand, the Monetary Policy Committee decides to delay any action until its next monthly meeting, it will have a rare chance to wrong-foot speculators and perhaps even partly to reverse the malignant hardening of the pound. The Bank would still be in a position to raise interest rates in the months ahead and might be right to do so. But by delaying it would have shown that it takes seriously both sides of the dual responsibility conferred on it by the Government: "to deliver price stability and, without prejudice to this objective, to support the Government's economic policy, including its objectives for growth and employment".

If the Bank were to send this signal, Britain's industrialists would be wise to persist with their long-range plans, regardless of temporary setbacks. For Britain might then be on the way to creating the kind of benign environment of low inflation, full employment and robust growth maintained in America by the pragmatic monetary policy of the Federal Reserve Board.

The timing of a quarter-point change in interest rates would not normally be so significant. But conditions are far from normal today. Currency markets are in a speculative frenzy after the Budget, which City analysts interpreted as an open invitation to an inflationary boom.

This interpretation is probably wrong. Inflation remains remarkably subdued. There

was panic in the City over yesterday's small increase in retail prices. But roughly half of this was due to a weather-related jump in the price of food.

If Britain were measuring prices on the harmonised basis proposed by the European Commission for future members of EMU, underlying inflation would be only 1.6 per cent, instead of the 2.7 per cent reported yesterday. Manufacturing output and orders are falling. Building society windfalls may bring forward purchases of furniture and appliances, but this could be mirrored by falling sales of these same items next year. On top of this, the Chancellor has presented a modestly deflationary Budget. And most importantly, the 20 per cent jump in sterling guarantees that the squeeze on industry and inflation will intensify.

The impression of a clash between the fiscal and monetary authorities frequently causes currencies to become overvalued and gives central bank independence a bad name. By refusing to cast a vote of no confidence in the Budget, the Bank could prove that it is a pragmatic institution which recognises the deflationary effects of a strong exchange rate, without in any way committing itself to the futile and potentially inflationary defence of a particular target for the pound.

If instead the Bank opts for a rushed decision to raise interest rates tomorrow, it will create a one-way bet for speculators in sterling, by showing that it is completely oblivious to sterling's deflationary effects. It will then bear the full responsibility for the economic damage that results. In voting tomorrow, the MPC's independent members should remember that they were appointed to be independent. The Bank officials should recall the lesson of the ERM, the gold standard and the devaluations of 1967 and 1992: in monetary politics there is no such thing as an irreversible decision. If the Bank ruins the economy in exercising the powers it has been given, these powers could just as suddenly be taken away.

MODERN MEXICO

Free trade has proved the catalyst for political reform

In a year of dramatic results, the outcome of the mid-term elections in Mexico must rank as one of the most remarkable. The Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which has held almost all Mexican political offices of any consequence since 1929, suffered a severe setback at the polls. Final returns yesterday confirmed that the party would no longer command a majority in the Chamber of Deputies. Furthermore, Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, leader of the left-wing Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), comfortably won the contest for Mayor of Mexico City. The other main Opposition bloc, the centre-right National Action Party (PAN), also made a significant advance.

The unpopularity of the ruling party is understandable. The sudden collapse of the Mexican peso in December 1994 produced two years of unparalleled austerity. The discovery of deep corruption, including elements related to narcotics interests, under former President Carlos Salinas, stunned even the more cynical observers of Latin American politics. The current President, Ernesto Zedillo, has encountered enormous difficulties in imposing his authority either on his own party or in southern Mexico, especially Chiapas, where guerrilla activity by determined, if erratic, rebels persists.

In the past none of these problems would have mattered. The PRI would have used its control over the machinery of Mexico's elections to ensure that the right result emerged from the ballot boxes regardless of what the voters put in. In the 1988 presidential contest, the new Mayor of Mexico City appeared set for victory over Mr Salinas when a sudden computer failure

stopped the count. When the process restarted the votes switched direction.

This election, by contrast, was remarkably fair. An independent Federal Election Institute prevented interference at the polling stations. Strict controls over campaign finance and careful scrutiny of the state-controlled media ensured that more subtle forms of bias did not operate. President Zedillo accepted defeat with good grace. Mr Cárdenas was similarly magnanimous in response.

None of this would have been likely without the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between the United States, Canada, and Mexico that took effect three years ago. Mexico's increasingly technocratic leadership sought that pact because by the late 1980s they had come to realise that their highly protected economy — dominated by the oil sector — could not continue in that fashion. The emigration of skilled labour had become a national crisis. A determined programme of mass deregulation and privatisation under Mr Salinas persuaded Presidents Bush and Clinton to embrace their southern neighbour.

An informal but essential part of that package, Washington made clear, was that past practices that made a mockery of Mexican democracy would have to be abandoned. That price was conceded by the PRI leadership. It led to the legislation passed last year that ensured a proper election on this occasion. The precise impact of NAFTA on Mexico's short-term economic outlook remains a matter of contention, although the medium-term effect can only be advantageous. The political consequences have already been powerfully demonstrated.

REHEARSE THE PLAYERS

The most modern actors still need a grounding in the classics

That gifted voice-coach, Hamlet, had sound advice for Elsinore's players. They were not to tear passion to tatters and split the ears of the groundlings but to "speak the speech tripping on the tongue". History is packed with similar remonstrance. The admirers of Kean thought Kemble spoke and moved "like a man in armour", while Kemble's fans found Kean "brash and vulgar". Adrian Noble, artistic director of the RSC, now tells us that our drama schools are producing actors with little understanding of the Elizabethans and less ability to handle their verse. His strictures stand in a long tradition.

But this is more than just another battle in the war between different generations and changing styles of acting. Many secondary schools are failing to give our children a grounding in the theatrical classics and, with drama barely on the national curriculum, deafness to Shakespeare is likely to worsen. Drama-school principals increasingly feel obliged to tilt training towards television, because that is where the work is. Some of them say that their students are more interested in the cinema than the theatre, and that their models are Pacino and de Niro, not stage actors. Moreover, regional theatres no longer have permanent companies and can seldom afford to mount Elizabethan work with large casts. Thus the on-the-job training that an earlier generation took for granted barely exists.

Noble's diagnosis, then, is as accurate as it is disturbing. The academics could do far

more to ensure that our classic theatre is not surrendered to Method numbers and ersatz Californians. But the RSC is not without blame itself. Sir Peter Hall, who created the company in 1961, has himself criticised some of its directors and actors for neglecting Hamlet's instructions. Instead of speaking the speech trippingly, and acknowledging the rhythm of Elizabethan verse, performers pack their words with a specious and slovenly realism. Shakespeare, the poet of the human heart, dwindles into Shakespeare the Hampstead psychologist. His strictures stand in a long tradition.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

England's role in devolution debate

From Mr Simon Chapman

Sir, You report (News in brief, later editions, July 2) that the Prime Minister is to write to all Labour Party members in Wales to urge them to support his devolution proposals.

The Government must not be allowed to get away with continuing to present the devolution debate as being relevant only to those living in Scotland and Wales and their MPs. The constitutional importance of devolution extends far beyond that. Not only are expatriates from both countries affected; so also is that nation conspicuous by its absence from Government's plans: the English.

England has fewer MPs per voter than either Scotland or Wales. She receives less public expenditure per head than either Scotland and Wales. That is tricky enough to justify under the present system. It becomes rather harder if Scotland and Wales are to have a greater say in their own government, yet still retain the voting rights of other member states on any issue that will affect us.

If we are to fulfil this role effectively we must point out the dangers that arise if the union develops in a different way.

All its member states are signatories to the United Nations covenant on human rights and the European Convention on Human Rights. It is therefore legitimate to ask why it is necessary to import human rights provisions into the Treaty of Amsterdam.

That is why the British people, like the Danes, should be allowed their say on the Amsterdam treaty before it is ratified.

Yours faithfully

MICHAEL HOWARD, House of Commons.

July 6.

'Realpolitik' of Amsterdam treaty

From the Shadow Foreign Secretary

Sir, Sir Christopher Chataway (letter, July 5) asks why I "tolerate our continuing membership of the EU". The answer is that I think we benefit from our membership and have an important part to play in the evolution of a union of nation states which will work and which will last.

If we are to fulfil this role effectively we must point out the dangers that arise if the union develops in a different way.

All its member states are signatories to the United Nations covenant on human rights and the European Convention on Human Rights. It is therefore legitimate to ask why it is necessary to import human rights provisions into the Treaty of Amsterdam.

That is why the British people, like the Danes, should be allowed their say on the Amsterdam treaty before it is ratified.

Yours faithfully

MICHAEL HOWARD, House of Commons.

July 6.

From Mr George Thomas

Sir, Sir Christopher Chataway writes to the Garrison Club to question whether Mr Howard really wants "to be in any club with" foreigners of the EU.

The EU is not a club. It is a dynamic political organisation run by politicians of whose ambitions the people are right to be suspicious. The people of this, or any other country, are right to believe that the defence of "the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms" are best kept in their own hands rather than delegated to a "club" most of whose members have, within the last few decades, shown less than enthusiastic respect for these principles.

Yours faithfully,

G. THOMAS.

17 Campden Hill Square, W8.

July 5.

Improving aid policy

From Mr Bill Linton

Sir, It might arguably be true that part of the answer to why Africa has got poorer over the last few years is that "much aid... perversely stacked the odds against the market" (leading article, July 2; see also letters, July 3) — though it is not a view I would support myself — but it is such a small part of the answer as to be irrelevant.

The baleful effects of the debt crisis on the one hand and steadily worsening terms of trade on the other are the primary reasons why so much of Africa is still in "the intensive-care ward". This is the market perversely stacking the odds against aid, not the other way round.

Only in the last few months has a worthwhile initiative to tackle the debt crisis finally emerged — the Highly Indebted Poor Country Initiative, put forward by World Bank President James Wolfensohn with the (somewhat reluctant) support of the International Monetary Fund.

The initiative is flawed, particularly in terms of the length of time which must elapse before any poor country can benefit from it, but it represents a commitment to solving the problem.

If the flaws can be ironed out, then Africa could at last begin to compete on something like level terms with the

rest of the world, regardless of what kind of aid it got from us.

Yours faithfully,

BILL LINTON,

39a Fox Lane,

Primrose Green, N13.

July 3.

From Mr Tim Symonds

Sir, Mr D. John Shaw, recent Head of the UN World Food Programme Policy Affairs Service (letter, July 3), is clearly right when he states: "The poor themselves, female and male, should be intimately involved in the process of removing poverty."

May I go one step further, as someone who has lived in developing countries as far back as Kenya in Mau Mau times, and states that unless women in particular become decision-makers and leaders at every senior level, in very large numbers, neither poverty nor endemic conflict are going to be solved.

The UK Secretary of State for International Development is ideally placed to help develop parity democracy on four if not five continents, with results I may not live to see but will make for a far, far better millennium for everyone.

Yours faithfully,

TM SYMONDS,

46 Portland Place, W1.

July 3.

The marchers

From Brigadier Robin Rhoderick-Jones

Sir, On Thursday, some 100,000 people are expected to assemble in Hyde Park to protest against proposals to ban hunting with hounds and the extended threat to other country sports and the tens of thousands of jobs which attend them. Many of those people will have walked from all corners of the United Kingdom; most will travel by coach and train. Last weekend a similar number converged on the capital to celebrate Gay Pride.

One of the surprising by-products of these two events is that *The Archers* ("An everyday story of countryfolk") has run an extended storyline culminating in the landlord of the Cat and Fiddle — and captain of the Ambridge

cricket team — deserting his team members (with predictably dire results) and joining Gay Pride with his partner. There has, however, at the time of writing, been absolutely no mention of the Countryside March, despite the fact that several characters hunt or have hunted, many more shoot and fish, some are dependent on such activities for their livelihood and Eddie Grundy and his family are enthusiastic falconers.

Isn't this rather odd? Or does it display a fondly nurtured wish of the writers and editor of the programme to turn Ambridge into a Finsbury Park with thatch and a village green?

Yours faithfully,

ROBIN RHODERICK-JONES,

Middle St Andrew's Wood,

Dulford, Cullompton, Devon.

July 8.

New Tory policy?

From Mr Michael Gibbon

Sir, Mr Nigel Evans, MP, the Conservative frontbencher spokesman on the constitution (letter, July 2), complains that the meeting of the Welsh Grand Committee held in Mold was a "sham" because the committee has no Conservative members, even though 317,000 people in Wales had voted Conservative on May 1.

I hadn't realised that proportional representation was now Conservative Party policy. There again, I don't imagine he's seeking to say that the general election was a "sham" just because the Conservatives did not win any seats in Wales.

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL GIBBON,

98 Anthony Road,

Woodside Green, SE25,

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July 7.

letters@the-times.co.uk

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Stewart's home town

From Dr Cathy S. Baker

Sir, James Stewart was born in my home town of Indiana, Pennsylvania, not Indiana the State (obituary, July 4). Jimmie's father owned a hardware store rather than a china shop, which was located on the main street of the town about three blocks from Vinegar Hill.

I remember during the early 1950s Mr Stewart Sr displayed Jimmy's awards and photographs in the shop window. Today, a statue of Jimmie Stewart stands in front of the Indiana County courthouse not far from where Stewart's Hardware Store once stood.

Yours faithfully,



OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR J. Z. YOUNG

Professor J. Z. Young, FRS, zoologist and Professor of Anatomy, University College London, 1945-74, died on July 4 aged 90. He was born on March 18, 1907.

John Zachary Young, or "JZ" as he was universally known, was one of the most distinguished and influential zoologists of his day. Much of his work, including his Reith lectures, concerned the anatomical basis of various brain functions.

His career began at a time when being a zoologist meant studying animals at all levels, from the cellular to the behavioural, not forgetting their embryology, genetics and evolution. He gave vivid expression to this scope in his innovative textbooks *The Life of the Vertebrates* (1950) and *The Life of Mammals* (1957); perhaps unfortunately, the last of the trilogy was published as *An Introduction to the Study of Man* (1971). The impact of these books on undergraduates and medical students at the time was formidable.

Arguably even greater was the effect of his personality during tutorials and lectures, first as fellow and tutor at Magdalen College, Oxford, and later in London. What was the secret of his influence? It derived from a genuine, open-minded enthusiasm for the subject, together with an impatience to get on and do new things and understand more. He recognised no limits to what could and should be achieved in research and teaching.

John Zachary Young was educated at Marlborough and at Magdalen, where, holding a Demyship, he began a classi-



cally successful academic career.

On graduating in 1928, he went as the 1928-29 Oxford Scholar to the zoological station in Naples, where he rediscovered the giant nerve fibres of the squid (the discovery had been made originally

by L. W. Williams in 1909). These fibres are so large that they later enabled the 1963 Nobel prizewinners A. L. Hodgkin and A. F. Huxley to insert an electrode inside the nerve to measure ionic flux during rest and activity. The propagation of an action po-

tential was explained in terms of ionic conductance changes — results of fundamental importance. During the Second World War, Young remained in Oxford to lead a group doing research into the mechanisms of degeneration and repair of injured nerve fibres.

and in 1945, at the remarkably early age of 38, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.

In the same year he was invited to head the Anatomy Department at University College London, being preferred to "Solly" Zuckerman. This upset the hidebound anatomists of London and the medical fraternity generally, since the appointment of a professor of anatomy who was not medically qualified was considered unthinkable. A small group manoeuvred for the appointment to be thrown out by the Academic Council of the University. It was but University College was determined, and JZ was persuaded to apply formally. This time the innovators were more skilled. The appointment was finally confirmed at the end of 1945, though it was accompanied by a shower of protesting letters, some of them quite scurrilous, in *The Times* and various medical journals.

The row rumbled on into the early 1950s, but by then JZ had begun transforming a moribund department into the major research and teaching centre for anatomy and cell biology that he left behind when he retired in 1974. Needless to say, his innovations had by then become widely imitated and admired, not just in London but internationally.

In his department, JZ promoted many kinds of research, especially on nervous systems. His own work was primarily anatomical, since he maintained — unfashionably — that understanding of the mechanisms of brains could not progress without a sound structural basis. This stance helped to rescue classical anatomy from its moribund background.

In 1947, with help from the

Nuffield Foundation, he returned to Naples. His primary intention was to use the lobular organisation of the octopus's brain to explore the specialised functions of each lobe. In particular, he sought a neural basis for the mechanisms of memory. An early summary of his work and thoughts was given as the BBC Reith lectures for 1950, *Doubt and Certainty in Science*.

In succeeding years he returned every summer to Naples. He also published many papers and books, among them *The Anatomy of the Nervous System of Octopus Vulgaris* (1971) and *Philosophy and the Brain* (1987).

The diversity and magnitude of his achievements leave a great many people around the world in his debt. This debt was partially acknowledged by many honours and marks of recognition, among them a Royal Medal of the Royal Society (1967), an honorary DSc from Oxford (1979) and, rare for a scientist, an honorary fellowship of the British Academy.

During his retirement JZ continued to work on cephalopods, and returned to the Plymouth Marine Laboratory to follow up his very earliest research on the automatic nervous system of bony fish, as well as producing new editions of his textbooks. At the time of his death he was working on an entirely new book (with Marion Nixon) to be called *The Brains and Lives of Cephalopods*.

Young married first Phyllis Hesney, who died in 1987, and then Raymonde Parsons. She survived him, with a son and a daughter from his first marriage and a daughter from his second.

ANDRE HARRIS



André Harris, French documentary film-maker, died in Paris on June 8 aged 63. He was born in Nevers on July 13, 1933.

THE leading documentary-maker André Harris was an iconoclast in his approach to contemporary French history. He probed where others backed off, and this did not always suit the tightly controlled French state television network, the *Office de Radiodiffusion-Télévision Française*, as it was known in the 1960s. In 1969, Harris and the director Marcel Ophüls produced *Le Chagrin et la Pitié*, a detailed, four-hour account for television of life in Vichy France.

It was not a flattering portrait of the times. It juxtaposed black-and-white archive footage from the war — some from Paris, some from the provincial city of Clermont-Ferrand — with the testimony of those who lived through the events. It showed the wide public support for Marshal Pétain, the Vichy leader, and did not flinch from admitting the extent of collaboration with the Germans.

This theme ran counter to the postwar Gaullist line that the Resistance movement had been very widespread. The state television board banned the film as unpatriotic, and it was not shown on French television for a further 12 years, becoming in the process a *cause célèbre*.

This was the first time French film-makers had faced some of the darker aspects of the war. Harris was at the time that he and his generation wanted to know what had really taken place under the Germans. The film had a humble premiere in the Studio St Andrew des Arts, a Left Bank art et essai cinema, and then on German and Swiss television, before finally being allowed onto French television in 1981.

A dubbed version had an art-house success in Britain, around Europe and in America, where Woody Allen gave it a plug in one of his movies. "You must see *Sorrow and Pity*" he told his film envoys. The film was a big step in France's slow process of facing up to the Vichy past, which has recently led to books on the wartime role of former President François Mitterrand.

André Harris began his career as a diplomatic correspondent on French radio in 1960. As political editor on

state television from 1963 to 1968, he was responsible for a number of fine documentaries about social issues.

However, the shockwaves from *Le Chagrin et la Pitié* led to his exclusion from state television in 1968, a "sentence" that was to last for 13 years. His next work, in 1972, did not please the Gaullist powers either. *Français, si vous saviez* ("French, if you only knew") was an ambitious seven-hour series covering 50 years of French history, from the trenches of the First World War to the Algerian War of the 1950s and 1960s. The theme was the breakdown of France's national consensus.

Harris was back on state television in 1981, the year the Socialists under Mitterrand won power, and soon showed that his rebellious instinct was undimmed. He introduced a Saturday night "Right of Reply" show: a noisy slanging match between journalists and politicians which delighted half the country and scandalised the other half. He sought major reforms within French television and an end to what he called its "inward-looking and isolationist" nature. He lasted a year before being shut down, as much by his colleagues as by politicians. A job was found for him running France Média International, selling French programmes abroad.

Harris was a burly man with a habitually wry expression, who shunned Paris society and dinner parties, and who liked to shock with his outspokenness. He was a kind of lone ranger for many years within the state audiovisual system.

He worked closely for two decades with another independent producer, Alain de Sedouy. The two men also produced a number of successful, investigative books. Among these were works on the French Communist Party, French employers and the right wing in France. His last book, published this year, is a biting social study of his compatriots.

In recent years, Harris had flourished again on television by becoming programme director of the cultural channel La Sept, in 1989, and then occupying the same post at the Franco-German channel Arte, the only bi-national, bi-lingual channel of its kind in Europe — and one to which the Bunn and Paris governments are heavily committed.

He is survived by his wife and two sons.

LEN POUNTNEY



Pountney ready for duty in his clinic in Hounslow, West London

ceding and thinning hair into a dapper forty-year-old whose own mother would not have recognised him. Roman nose, wrinkles and furrowed brow were all to be consigned to the dustbin, while the prominent brown eyes would be transformed into the piercing blue of a Nordic man, through the skilled use of contact lenses. In fact the Shah fell ill from cancer soon after going into exile and this ambitious manifesto could never be carried through to a conclusion.

The reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes was another Pountney project, changing his appearance several times after visits by the master of disguise to his Park Lane hotel suite. Cheek padding, hair pieces, false eyebrows and plastic moulds on the nose knocked twenty years off the famously wrinkled visage, prompting its owner to ask Pountney: "You wouldn't happen to have some sex pills on you, too?"

For fun, Pountney even worked his magic on himself on occasions, transforming his bespectacled "English professional" features into something more rugged and transatlantic.

A Londoner through and through, Pountney was born in Islington. In his youth he was an accomplished sportsman, becoming diving champion

of London in 1922 and making it to the ABA semi-finals before giving up boxing at 21. The career which was to make his fortune did not occur to him until after the Second World War, during which he was an Army PT instructor.

After demobilisation he was inspired by a magazine article

about the craft of the 18th-century wigmakers, to sink his capital of £300 in a barber's shop in Hounslow. In an austere postwar climate which was not in favour of undue adornment of the male person, he created permanent-wave and blow-wave hairstyles for men and advertised them in hairdressing periodicals. Two

of these, the Be-bop and the DA (Duck's Arse), promptly became internationally known, and Pountney was soon in demand to stage hairdressing shows in Europe's capitals.

He eventually outgrew the small barber's shop and in 1958 founded the Harley Street Hair Clinic, where he began to specialise in hair transplants. Yet he was eventually to move back to Hounslow (convenient for Heathrow Airport) and consequently a constant procession of wealthy visitors from overseas. There his establishment soon expanded to cover all forms of cosmetic surgery.

The notion of disguise, for which he was to work up a huge clientele, dated from the Fifties when a pop star complained to him about his lack of privacy. Wigs, moustaches and other external aids were added to hair transplants, as a means of altering appearance. Pountney could boast the Great Train Robbers among his clients, and on one occa-

sion a grateful customer claimed that he had avoided detection in a police identification line-up after a visit to the Pountney clinic. Pountney was glad to hear that the man had gone "straight", after this deliverance.

The Pountney clinic — as did others that followed its lead — had its critics over the years, but Pountney was always honest with his customers about what a hair transplant could achieve in any specific situation. The services he tried to offer to the exiled Shah were widely reported at the time to have drawn threats from Iranian terrorists. Whatever the truth of this, from the 1980s onwards Pountney had a less "hands-on" involvement in the business, the day-to-day running of which was taken over by his son Roy. Len Pountney retired to Bournemouth, but until a few years ago he continued to hold weekly consultations at the clinic.

He is survived by his wife Frances and his son.

LORD'S

Of all the memories of Home which pull at the heartstrings of Englishmen in exile none, perhaps, is felt by so many or pulls harder than the memory of Lord's. To each, of course, there is his own private vision, conjured up by reminiscence of his own youth and his own "people". It may be a vision of English lane and tangled hedgerow, or of the village church with its yews and crumpling tombstones, or of some lawn of ancient turf, tree-shaded, edged with bright flower-beds. Or it may be a steeper vision of parklands and clustered trees, of stable and kennel and gunroom and the hot smell of ripe fruit in the walled garden. Scots pines and dark heather; open down with bright grass rippling in the wind; some secret cove where waves come tumbling over broken rocks; a stretch of trout-stream in the still of evening ... The background has long since faded but these glimpses, these silhouettes, grow ever more vivid and seem to hold within themselves the significance of half a life

ON THIS DAY

July 9, 1928

A nostalgic fourth leader to stir the hearts of expatriates in the week of the University match.

and of everything that is Home. If these, the dearest memories of all, are peculiar and individual to each, others, only less intimate, are shared in common by many — visions of School and College, of great ceremonies and public places and, especially, of London.

To all alike there is something precious in the memory of London: of its theatres, its shops, its parks and those streets about St. James's and Mayfair which, when, as now, the Season is at its height, have, in spite of crowds and

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Irish jokes, it seems, are no longer politically correct

Wanted: a minority safe to poke fun at

It's official. The Commission for Racial Equality has pronounced the Irish in Britain an oppressed ethnic minority. Irish jokes, it seems, are a form of racial harassment. I need no persuading, having found the award-laden *Father Ted* a joke at the expense of the dinnish Irish and twittering celibates.

The commission spent £50,000 on a study to flesh out what everybody knows — that in Britain "a voice with an Irish accent" does not instantly conjure up happy pictures of Henry Kelly, Terry Wogan or Dr Anthony Clare. Anyway, no one is laughing now. The past weekend provided fresh examples that the island of Ireland, whatever its other blessings, has the misfortune to be in the northwest corner of Europe where the confounding religious traditions of North and South are jammed up against each other like two plates of the Earth's crust.

So who can we laugh at? Not the Scots. As a leader in *The Times* last week pointed out, the Scottish accent, thanks to *Dr Finlay's Casebook* et al, is associated with good doctors. The Germans and French aren't funny any more. Nor are fat ladies, nor gays, nor dwarfs, nor imbeciles, nor mothers-in-law; in all cases politically incorrect, all are entitled to the right not to be stereotyped.

My suggestion? The Welsh. They are a safe bet because they have the essential requirements: natural wit, thick skins and, since the Post Office has removed the "p" from new postage stamps to satisfy the Welsh Language Board's plea that the Welsh word for penes begins with a "c" (or *ceninog*), no outstanding grievance.

As some readers of this column may remember, I have no great enthusiasm for expensive attempts to prolong artificially the life of ancient languages. I have heard of a conference in Cardiff where someone had to be found to translate from Finnish into Welsh. Should independence follow devolution, and Catalonia, as it is rumoured, seek independent entry to the European Community, think what lies ahead. Earphones all round.

The new age of ethnicity, foretold by Professor Samuel Huntington of Harvard, in a speech to the Harvard Club of London last week, raises infinite new possibilities for putting your foot in it. At a cafe in the Welsh Borders recently I sounded off intemperately about schoolroom signs in that totally English-speaking area teaching pupils the Welsh words for simple common nouns. "How much better off they'd be learning French and German," I declaimed, noticing too late the reddening face of the young man from BBC Wales opposite. He took issue.



BRENDA
MADDOX

Meanwhile, BBC Wales struggles to make it dramatic mark in the gritty manner of its fellow Celts who pull in big audiences with *Cracker*, *Hamish Macbeth* and *Ballykissangel*. BBC Wales' recent drama series — *Drover's Gold* — has been only a moderate success on BBC1. Great hopes are riding on *Tiger Bay*, an eight-part serial set in Cardiff, which begins on BBC1 on July 21. The producer Glenda Jones promises a new vision of Wales — multicultural, urban, dockland local rubbing shoulders with yuppie professional — and not a sheep, a miner or a male-voice choir in sight.

Yet the fear lingers that there is a national prejudice against the Welsh that is no joke. Neil Kinnock, it is believed, did not get the job he wanted because of his accent. Against that must be set the growing popularity of the Welsh language, and evidence of its usefulness. William Hague has proved that an Englishman can advance his career prospects by joining the Taffia and learning Welsh.

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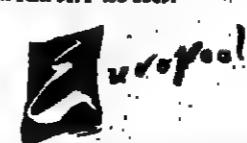
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The Jones Griffiths picture, left, and the version that raised questions about whether photographers have control over copies inspired by their work

War of words over Army ad

A row between advertising agency Saatchi & Saatchi and Magnum, the photographic agency, has ended in a truce. The latter has accepted a financial settlement after a row over a photograph used for a British Army recruitment campaign.

Saatchi, which holds the Army's account, had asked to use a photograph by Philip Jones Griffiths — one of Magnum's leading war photographers — of a dead soldier in Vietnam. Mr Jones Griffiths, a pacifist, declined. But his photograph was then recreated, using computers to impose the model's head on the torso.

In January, the ad appeared in *Loaded* magazine, whose readership is one of the target audiences for the British Army's recruitment campaign, aimed at 16 to 24-year-olds — bearing the message: "Dead or alive. How can you be sure?"

The ad was part of an award-winning recruitment campaign and was aimed at potential officers to sell the idea that soldiering involves brains as well as brawn, with the focus on decision-making. Yet the use of the image for the campaign has caused offence and led to a war of words over whether a photographer has any claim to images inspired by his work.

One Magnum employee says some photographers who

cover war zones feel strongly about securing the political context in which their work is presented. But he adds: "I'm sure the British Army is not saying it is pro-war."

Indeed, the Army's public image today highlights its role as one of peacekeeping abroad. Saatchi was paid £1 million three years ago to

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Chris Ayres and Jason Nissé on the pattern of journalists' pay; and Peter Foster on freelancing

Hold the pay packet

Mark Twain, when asked why he went into journalism, said he couldn't find an honest job. In his day, the profession was well respected and well paid. Even in the early 1980s, someone fresh out of university might have been tempted into journalism by the prospect of boozey four-hour lunches, free press trips abroad, fat expense accounts and high salaries.

In those days, starting salaries in journalism were double the national average. But this has all changed. More than 800 graduates try to break into the profession every year, and salaries have come tumbling down, with some newspapers filling their newsdesks with student journalists on unpaid work experience or low-paid freelances. National newspaper trainees earn between £12,000 and £17,000, and competition for places is cut-throat. Most graduates end up paying for their own training.

The lucky few who manage to push themselves into national newspaper journalism will be disappointed to find their expense accounts now cover only the cost of a Big Mac. Worse, drinking at lunchtime is reserved strictly for those who do not have to worry about keeping their jobs, or the newroom alcoholics who swig whisky out of cola bottles.

If you made it to the top of the tree, you could now expect to have a fairly competitive wage. Section editors on national newspapers can expect to earn upwards of £60,000, with most editors earning more than £150,000. David Montgomery, the chief executive of the Mirror Group, last year raked in £581,000 and recently made £780,000 selling his share options. Montgomery started out as a sub-editor on the *Daily Mirror* and later became editor of the *Newspaper of the World* and *Today*.

Graduates who went into local or regional newspaper journalism 15 years ago would also have been attracted by high pay, a degree of local celebrity, and status. Some trainees would have been paid about £6,000, which in those days was in line with most trainee accountancy, banking and teaching jobs. Those who ended up as editors will today earn up to £30,000, plus bonuses and share options.

Local newspaper trainees now get paid a lot less in real terms than they used to. Salaries can start at £6,000, rising to £8,000 for the better jobs. Trainees on regional newspapers can earn up to £11,000, although competition is tough and places are likely to be filled by only the brightest of graduates.

As the table below shows, compared with accountancy, banking and commercial management, journalism now seems a far less wise choice of career in financial terms than it was 15 years ago. While young journalists may comfort themselves with the thought that at least their jobs are rather more fun and glamorous, those approaching middle-age, with mortgages to pay and families to support, may be beginning to wonder whether the trade-off was worth it.

| JOURNALISM | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| National newspaper | |
| Graduate trainee 15 yrs ago | £16,000 |
| Grad. trainee today | £12,000-£17,000 |
| Senior journalist 15 yrs ago | £30,000 |
| Snr. journalist today | up to £65,000 |
| Editor today | £150,000 plus |
| Regional newspaper | |
| Grad. trainee 15 yrs ago | up to £6,000 |
| Grad. trainee today | up to £11,000 |
| Snr. journalist today | up to £30,000 |
| Editor today | £40,000-£50,000 |
| Magazines | |
| Grad. trainee 15 yrs ago | £5,000 |
| Grad. trainee today | £2,000-£13,000 |
| Staff writer 15 yrs ago | £12,000 |
| Staff writer today | £15,000-£16,000 |
| Editor today | up to £20,000 |
| ACCOUNTANCY | |
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The Front Page story: gone are the days when being a journalist was all about big money, booze and being ahead of the pack

How much are your words worth?

THE INCOME of a freelance journalist, much like a professional footballer, depends on which division you play in. Big names of the premier league can easily earn £1,000 for an afternoon turning opinions for the *Daily Mail*. Lesser writers hawk their wares round local papers and off-beat magazines for a pitiful £30 or £50.

Even writing for a national newspaper will not guarantee the kind of money that new conservatories and loft extensions are made of. Contributors to *The Guardian* met recently at a Soho restaurant to discuss the paper's freelance rates. The writer of a 1,000-word feature can expect to be paid only £150-£170 and to forfeit syndication rights.

The *Guardian* has long traded on an unspoken understanding

that writing for the paper is a vocational activity like nursing and social working, except the latter are better paid. Admittedly the paper pays its best freelancers more than the minimum rate. Indeed, the *Weekend* section will pay as much as £1,500 for a celebrity interview, and top writers for the section are among the highest paid freelancers on Fleet Street.

Aside from these chosen few, *The Independent* pays better than *The Guardian* on the basic scale — about £200 per thousand words. However, bigger money is on offer at mid-market tabloids.

National newspapers operate in a small but fiercely competitive market. A top name interviewer can command £900-£1,000 at the *Daily Telegraph* and up to £1,300

at *The Express* and *Mail*. Those less in demand but with a good reputation and able to turn their hand to any subject at short notice might make £700 at the *Mail*, £500 at the *Telegraph* and *Express* and £200 at *The Times* for a single feature.

Rates fall dramatically for other parts of the paper. Jobbing writers without any specialist expertise who contribute to motoring, arts, education or travel pages can earn £150-£180 at an 800-word lead. On local papers rates drop even further starting as low as £50 for a 400-word travel article. Short book and theatre reviews attract comparable amounts, while big-name reviewers are paid handsomely.

The editorial pages, largely populated by politicians, media-wise

academics and top columnists, are significantly more rewarding than features. Although papers such as *The Times*, *The Telegraph* or *The Guardian* can trade on the kudos of publication in the comment section, top columnists with saleable names are the best paid writers on any paper. Lesser known such as jobbing academics with a specialism, will earn tiny amounts by comparison. Approximate rates are £250-£500 at *The Times*, £600-£800 at the *Telegraph*, £1,500 at the *Mail* and £1,000 at the *Express*. *Independent* rates are lower.

But the market leader in offering稿子 instead of cash has long been *The Spectator*, which, until recently, paid contributors a flat £100.

THE LISTENER

THE NEWS BEHIND THE HEADLINES

Edible cover girl



Jackson: fresh talks

READING the doggedly cool style mag *Dazed & Confused* these days can leave you feeling just that. The latest whizzo was for the delicious model Helena Christensen to adorn the front cover. The magazine excitedly hyped the fact that the cover would be literally edible. However, after a few problems with the rice paper concoction which was to constitute the cover, and fears that some fools might attempt to eat the entire magazine, the idea was ditched and instead Helena will appear, apparently completely naked, with a scratch-card style bar-code across her chest.

However, she will only appear naked under the bar-



Christensen: bar-coded

codes on a portion of the print run and some newsagents are expecting chaos in their stores as lascivious types attempt to scratch before they buy.

Jackson's back

MICHAEL JACKSON arrived in London for his first Wembley concert tonight with a new spin doctor, Tarak Ben Ammar, his manager since January and the man who persuaded him to pose with his baby for *OK!*, has launched a new media offensive in the wake

of Jacko's two marriages and accusations of child molestation. Ammar says he is going to do something revolutionary: he will talk to the press.

"His relationship with the press was totally mishandled," says Ben Ammar of Jackson's former entourage.

"How they dealt with allegations could have been made easier — all they had to do

was talk to the press. One of my missions is to say the truth, I am for the mystery of the star — people like to keep a certain dream. But I am also for talking." Jacko is not expected on the *Today* programme just yet.

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

50% off adventure sports

The Times offers you a selection of adventure sports throughout Britain this summer with discounts of 50 per cent off normal prices. You can choose from more than 15 activities anytime before September 30, 1997, subject to availability. Collect four tokens, attach them to a voucher, and book your visit in advance with the relevant company. When you make your payment, send your voucher and tokens to

validate your discount. Readers are responsible for taking out their own holiday and accident insurance cover.

FREE SCUBA DIVE

You can have a free try-dive with the British Sub-Aqua Club (normally £15) between Aug 11-17. Present four differently numbered tokens when you take your dive and call 01500 947 202 for your nearest teaching pool.



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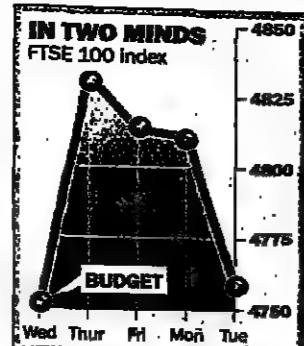
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY JULY 9 1997

Interest rate fears send stock market into reverse



By ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE stock market went into reverse as fears of a rise in interest rates continued to haunt the City ahead of today's Bank of England monetary policy meeting.

The FTSE 100 index fell 52.2 points — about 1 per cent — to 4,785.5, with economists predicting that the Bank will push up interest rates by a quarter point to 6.75 per cent.

However, the pound renewed its climb, after a fall prompted by

Tuesday's weak manufacturing output figures, to hit a six-year high against the mark. The pound closed up three pence at DM2.9693, having reached DM2.9740 at one point. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose 0.9 points to 104.2 while also making ground against the dollar, rising from \$1.6846 to \$1.6897.

The market was unsettled by stronger than expected inflation figures and dealers expect the market to remain subdued ahead of the conclusion of the monetary policy meeting. Traders also noted the stock market

had ended a period of tailing Wall Street — which rose 59.26 points to 7,917.75 by lunchtime — to concentrate on domestic issues.

Exporters, including JCI and GKN, were again the big losers although financial services stocks also lost some ground after their recent strong rises. The latest Engineering Employers Federation quarterly survey, which was published yesterday, showed exports at their lowest for three years. Output and employment in the sector also fell.

Headline inflation rose from 2.6

per cent to 2.9 per cent in June, the highest rate since January 1996. The Government's favoured measure of inflation, which excludes mortgage costs, rose from 2.5 per cent to 2.7 per cent, above the target level. Economists said the figures marginally increased the chances of further rate rises but that most of the rise was a result of increases in erratic elements of the index and the outlook for underlying inflation remains benign.

The May rise in interest rates,

forcing up mortgage costs, contributed much to the rise in the headline

figure. Seasonal food prices, which normally fall during the summer, also registered their largest June increase since 1978. But service sector inflation declined from 3.3 per cent to 3.2 per cent, and the price of household goods, clothing and footwear also fell despite strong sales.

Simon Briscoe, director of research at Nikko Europe, said: "Unless you believe that consumers are spending their windfalls on fruit and veg there is little sign of a windfall-led inflation."

Market report, page 28

Debenhams to demerge from Burton

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN HOERNER, the American chief executive of The Burton Group, yesterday moved to arrest the sharp decline in the group's share price by demerging Debenhams, the department store side which Mr Hoerner was brought to Burton to run.

The move means that Mr Hoerner will take direct control of the remaining group, which includes Top Shop, Top Man, Principles, Burton Menswear, Evans and Dorothy Perkins. This has led to the departure of Stuart Rose, who has been managing all the multiples except Top Shop. He is on a two-year rolling contract and his salary last year was £280,000.

Debenhams will have a separate London Stock Exchange listing from next year. Analysts reckon it is worth between £1.3 billion and £1.6 billion, while the remaining business, which is to be reorganised into a single group with a new name, will

be valued at between £550 million and £700 million.

Mr Hoerner, Burton's chief executive, will become chief executive of the multiples group and will be joined there by Andrew Higgins, Burton's finance director. Terry Green, who has been chief executive of Debenhams since taking over from Mr Hoerner in 1992, will retain that job after the demerger.

Sir John Hoskyns, who had been due to retire as chairman of The Burton Group next January, will stay on until July. Peter Jarvis, the former chief executive of Whitbread who was recently named as Sir John's successor at The Burton Group, will become chairman of Debenhams after the demerger. He is also chairman of the Low Pay Commission.

Mr Higgins said the decision to split had been taken after talking to the group's institutional investors after the last, poorly received results. "We had our eyes opened. Institu-

tions were finding it difficult to take a view on the business as it is. Now we'll have Debenhams, which is a very strong business, and the multiples, which have made great strides, but which are five years behind."

The company said it considered a demerger three years ago but thought the multiples were not then strong enough. Common systems and practices have since been installed at the multiples and profitability has improved.

The move sent Burton shares up 10.4p to 125.4p. They recently touched a year-low of 114p. Reaction among analysts was mixed, however.

Nick Bubb, of Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, the broker, said he was strongly in favour and he valued Debenhams alone at more than 100p a share.

Others were less favourable.

One City analyst described the change as "financial engineering without strong operational reasons", adding that all the changes in structure could have been done with Debenhams and the multiples remaining under one umbrella. He said that shareholders would strongly favour shares in Debenhams over the remainder of the group.

The trading statement yesterday showed that sales at the multiples, excluding home shopping, were up more than 1.4 per cent in the past 18 weeks. Although the bad weather in May and June will have contributed to this disappointing performance, sales at Debenhams in the same period rose 10.4 per cent.

A circular about the demerger will be sent out to shareholders in November and a vote will be taken at the annual meeting in January, with the demerger taking place in the spring.

Mr Hoerner, who was paid more than £900,000 including bonuses and benefits last year, is expected to maintain his pay level in his new job. He raised the possibility of returning some of the funds to shareholders.

The City reacted with disappointment to the long-awaited strategic review because it lacked any acquisitions or executive board ap-

HMSO books have £482,000 black hole

By ADAM JONES

THE £54 million privatisation of HMSO, the government stationery arm, has become embroiled in further controversy after inadequate accounting procedures were exposed by the National Audit Office.

Critics of the sale of HMSO to a new company headed by Rupert Penman-Rea, a former deputy governor of the Bank of England, last year said the price was far too low.

In a report published today the NAO said accounts for the nine months to privatisation on September 30 had to be qualified because of unreliable information.

Sir John Bourn, who heads the NAO, said a £482,000 net imbalance had arisen from discrepancies on several internal cash movements.

He blamed "inadequate

control of inter-business ac-

counts. It contributed to an operating deficit of £965,000 for the period. He also said payments of £1.6 million into suspense accounts could not be conclusively matched to any division.

In his report to Parliament, Sir John said Mike Lynn, the HMSO head at the time, claimed management and accounting staff had "a number of conflicting priorities" before the sell-off. He said the Cabinet Office accepts there are "valid concerns" about the lack of financial controls but has no reason to believe public money was lost.

Last night one unsuccess-

ful bidder for HMSO said

the accounts were "a dog's breakfast" making it almost impossible to come up with a consolidated picture that would have led to an accurate valuation.

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Independent future, page 29



George Simpson plans to dispose of GEC-Alsthom and hinted at returns for shareholders

City cool on Simpson's new strategy for GEC

By OLIVER AUGUST

GEORGE SIMPSON, chief executive of GEC, yesterday heralded the end of the "joint venture culture" of Lord Weinstock, his predecessor.

By pledging to focus on the group's core strength in defence, industrial electronics and telecoms over the next three to four years.

Mr Simpson announced plans to dispose of GEC-Alsthom, the £2.5 billion trains and power joint venture.

A decision on a possible flotation, which is favoured by Mr Simpson, is expected in the next three months. He is likely to be a non-executive director of Debenhams which he ran from 1987 before taking over the group.

The City reacted with disappointment to the long-awaited strategic review because it lacked any acquisitions or executive board ap-

points. The shares fell from 377.5p to 353p.

Mr Simpson said he wanted to turn Marconi into a global leader in defence electronics. He singled out Finmeccanica of Italy and Siemens-Plessey as key partners.

GPT, the telecoms arm, will be revamped to maintain a presence in the sector. It has

one of the highest growth rates in the group. Investment in product development and engineers will be increased significantly.

The number of businesses grouped together in the industrial division will be reduced according to growth potential.

The medical business is set for further acquisitions and Mr Simpson did not rule out an offer for Siemens' medical business even though the German company said its business was not for sale.

Commentary, page 27

Corbridge signs off with £400,000

By JASON NISSE

MARK CORBRIDGE, who resigned yesterday as joint chief executive of Newcastle United, is to receive a £400,000 payoff, taking the former merchant banker's total earnings in just over eight months at the recently floated Premiership club to more than £800,000.

Newcastle said Mr Corbridge left because the management structure of the company, where Freddy Fletcher was also joint chief executive, was "not satisfactory". Mr Corbridge, 33, joined in November from NatWest Markets, the bankers that sponsored the float, in a move

presented as strengthening the management team for the float. Jo Dixon, Newcastle's finance director, also joined from NatWest.

Mr Corbridge, a Sheffield Wednesday fan, was behind the decision to force Kevin Keegan, the club's former manager, to either resign or commit himself to the club in a long-term deal, leading to Mr Keegan's departure.

Mr Corbridge argued that Mr Keegan's previous threats to resign would have to be included in Newcastle's prospectus for its £193 million flotation last March. Mr



Keegan: commit or quit

Barclay twins target The Independent

By ERIC REGULY

THE secretive Barclay twins are trying to add the *The Independent* and its Sunday sister to their growing media empire.

Andrew Neil, the former *Sunday Times* editor who is now Editor-in-chief of the Barclays' newspapers company, has approached the Mirror Group and Independent Newspapers of Ireland about taking control of the *Independent* titles. Mirror Group and Independent Newspapers each own 46.4 per cent of *The Independent*

and *The Sunday Independent*.

The Barclays believe that

Mirror Group wants to raise capital after last week's agreement to buy Midland Independent Newspapers, owner of *The Birmingham Post*, for £27 million. They are keen to add national titles to their portfolio, which includes *The Scotsman*, *Scotland on Sunday* and *The European*.

They believe Mirror Group would sell its share in the newspapers if it retained the contract to print them.

Commentary, page 27

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STOCK MARKET
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FTSE All share 2226.02 (-21.4)
Nikkei 2302.59 (+148.72)
Dow Jones 7810.96 (+52.47)*
S&P Composite 916.34 (+4.04)*

US RATE

Federal Funds 6.5%
Long Bond 100%
Yield 6.5%
LIBOR

LONDON MONEY

Bank Interbank 8.5%
Libor long gilt future (Sep) 114%
Yen 104.3 (103.9)

STERLING

THE Personal Investment Authority came under fire yesterday after it handed out its largest fine in relation to the pensions mis-selling scandal to a small independent financial adviser in Gloucester.

Lincoln Independent, a subsidiary of Lincoln Group, the life insurer, was ordered to pay a total of £85,000 for failing adequately to monitor and implement its pensions mis-selling review.

The PIA has fined 38 IFAs in the

pensions review but has

failed to take any action

against large pension

companies responsible for 90 per

cent of the 570,000 potential

mis-selling cases

reviewed.

A spokesman for Lincoln

Group said that the company

was surprised and disappointed

by the fine, which it said

was out of proportion

Jarvis top choice for £27m plan

Jarvis, in a consortium with Rotch Property Group, has been selected as preferred bidder by University College, London, for a £27 million private finance initiative project linked to the development of a new centre for medical research.

The scheme comprises the refurbishment and conversion of the Cruciform, a Grade II listed building, previously University College Hospital, in Gower Street, London, to provide research facilities and teaching accommodation.

Friends up

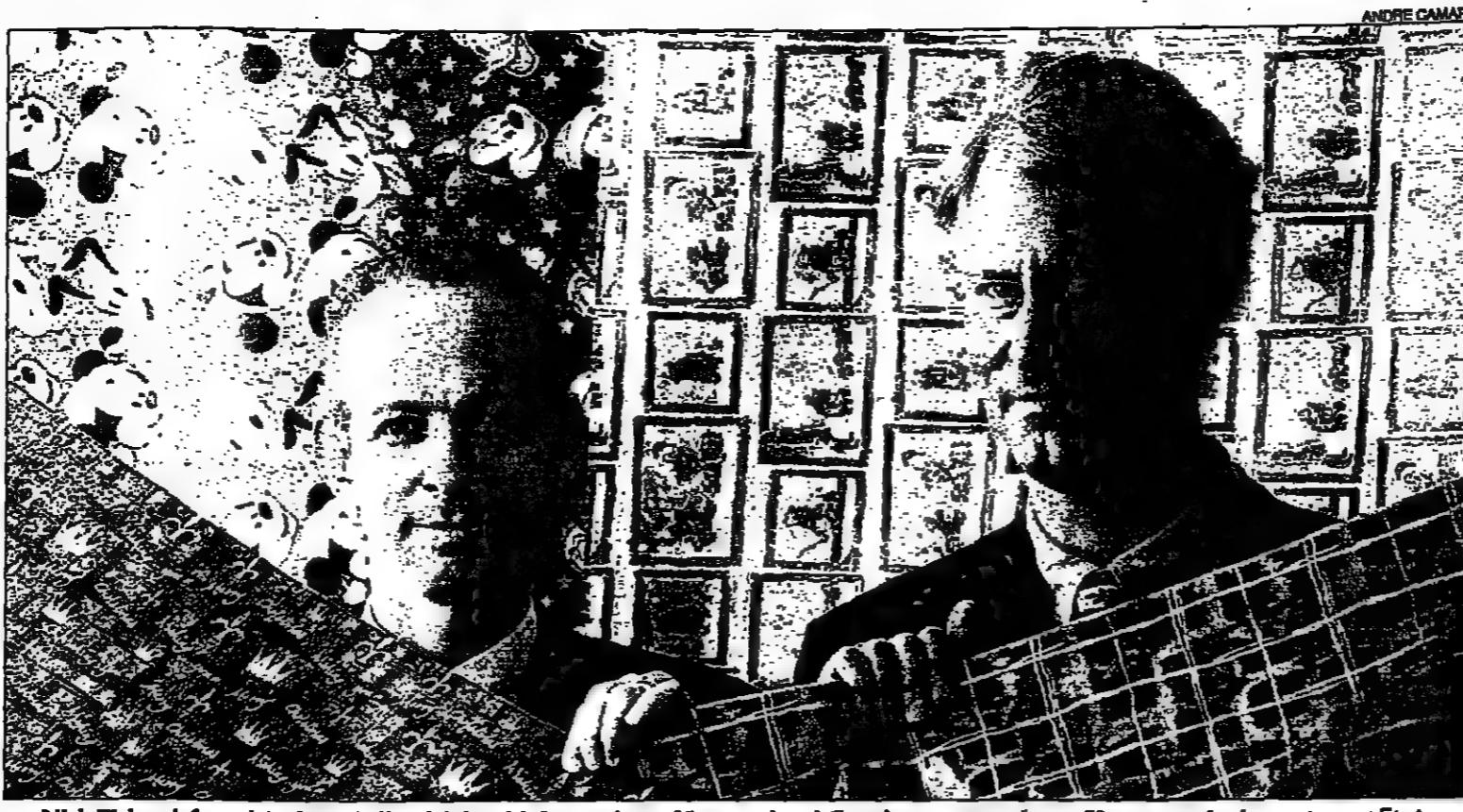
Friends Provident, the mutual life insurer, has reported an increase in new business of 73 per cent from £19 million to £552 million for the six months to June 30. Total retail new business from life, pensions, annuity, permanent health and unit trust and PEP sales, increased by 68 per cent from £274 million to £460 million.

M&W ahead

M&W, the convenience store operator, lifted pre-tax profits to £1.21 million from £140,000 in the six months to March 31, helped by an increased contribution from new stores. Earnings rose to 4.47p from 3.11p. The interim dividend is 1.65p (1.25p).

Power on

Siemens, the German electronics company, has won an £80 million contract to upgrade an electricity power station in Dublin. The development will more than triple the capacity of the Poolbeg station.



Nick Fisher, left, and Anders Hedlund, joint chief executives of International Greetings, wrapped up a 58 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £5.1 million in the year to March 31. Dividends rose 33 per cent to 6.67p out of earnings up 57 per cent to 26p. The current year has started well

Insurers set out blueprint for stakeholder pensions

BY MARIANNE CURPHAY
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

THE tax treatment of pensions should be reformed to allow people to contribute to more than one scheme, and those with no earnings to build up their own retirement fund, insurers claim.

The Government's "stakeholder pension" should be available to all, including mothers who have given up work to raise children and the unemployed, according to radical proposals by the Association of British Insurers.

Current Inland Revenue

rules stipulate that pension premiums must be paid out of earned income.

The ABI, which represents more than 400 insurance companies, yesterday set out a blueprint for the stakeholder pension which it urged the Government to adopt.

The proposed scheme for a universal second pension is based on the principle behind the US Individual Retirement Account, which is fully portable. The ABI believes employers should contribute to the personal pension plans of individual members of staff.

The blueprint pension

might offer tax relief at 50 per cent on the first £500 of contributions to encourage the low paid to start saving. Further premiums up to a maximum of £3,000 a year would qualify for tax relief at the individual's highest rate.

The ABI envisages a product based on a simple fund tracking the performance of the FTSE All-Share index, plus exposure to index-linked gilts. People would be able to transfer to a rival provider every three years without penalty. The ABI believes the policy should be unit-linked and should have an annual

management charge of no more than 1 per cent.

At present insurance companies and bancassurers manage £170 billion of personal pensions on behalf of six million people. Mark Boalé, the ABI's director-general, believes the stakeholder pension could initially attract an extra £5 billion to £10 billion a year.

He said: "This is a low-

margin high-volume product

designed to appeal to the masses. It needs to be cheap,

simple and transparent. The quite arbitrary limits on how

much people can put into their pension are now inappropriate

in the light of changing social and employment patterns."

The ABI believes people should be allowed to contribute to a pension whatever their yearly income. It is particularly concerned that women who give up work to raise children and then return rarely manage to achieve the same salary, in real terms, as they were earning when they left.

A report by Coopers & Lybrand, commissioned by the ABI and entitled *Pensions - A long term strategy*, found that occupational schemes cost as much as administrators to personal pensions.

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much people can put into their pension are now inappropriate

Brussels homes in on Lonrho stake deal

THE European Commission is examining "very closely" a proposed sale by Anglo American Corp of South Africa of its 26.7 per cent stake in Lonrho to South Africa's JCI Mining Group, a commission source said. The Commission ordered Anglo American in April to cut its Lonrho stake to 9.9 per cent and said it could not sell the stake to companies with links to Anglo, Gencor or members of the Oppenheimer family. "Given Anglo's representation on the JCI board and the fact that Mzi Khumalo, the JCI chairman, is an Anglo director the Commission will have to examine very closely whether a sale of the shares to JCI falls within the above criteria," the commission source said.

Anglo American reportedly owns 18 per cent of JCI and has rights to appoint some JCI directors. Anglo said last week that it was granting JCI an option over the £326 million Lonrho stake, exercisable in December. The commission will take a decision "soon", the source said.

Housing deal for B&B

THE BRADFORD & BINGLEY, now the second largest building society, has lent £106 million to a housing association to buy 5,000 council homes. The South Oxfordshire Housing Association will spend £70 million of the loan in purchasing the homes from Oxfordshire District Council and the remaining £36.5 million on repairs, improvements and new building to provide 500 new units for rent. Some 82 per cent of the tenants voted for the transfer.

Triplex chief resigns

GRAHAM LOCKYER has resigned as chief executive of Triplex Lloyd, six months after the company's abortive bid for William Cook, the metal castings business. Mr Lockyer was said to have been the driving force behind the bid, which cost £2.1 million. Triplex will be headed by Bob Mitchell, the finance director, until a successor has been found. Pre-tax profits rose from £9.5 million to £11.3 million in the year to March 31. Earnings per share climbed from 10.4p to 13p.

Eurotunnel debt sold

SEVEN leading Japanese banks have sold their entire holdings of Eurotunnel debt, and three others have sold most of their debt over the past 18 months. The total holdings of Japanese banks, which were among the larger lenders, have fallen from £1.6 billion to under £600 million, with most being bought by US funds. Eurotunnel shareholders vote tomorrow on a plan to cut £4.4 billion from the group's £9 billion of debt. Total lenders have fallen from 235 to 174.

Savings bank for L&G

LEGAL & GENERAL has become the latest life insurance company to set up a telephone bank offering savings products that have high interest rates. Among the products it will offer is an instant access account with rates of up to 7 per cent. The company is hoping to attract some of the millions of pounds that has been released following the flotation of the Halifax. Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester. Legal & General claims that the bank cost less than £1 million to set up.

Birse builds profits

BIRSE GROUP, the construction and plant hire company that was severely affected by the prolonged recession in the building industry, lifted pre-tax profits to £2.02 million from £1.12 million in the year to April 30. The company reduced net debt to £2 million from £7 million and said that it expects to end the current year with cash in the bank. Earnings were 1.1p (0.6p last time). A final dividend of 0.3p a share makes a total of 0.5p (nil).

Frogmore raises £25m

FROGMORE ESTATES is raising £25 million in a placing of shares to finance the purchase of a commercial property portfolio from Axa Equity & Law, the insurer, for £92.2 million. The property company also has the right, until September, to purchase a second tranche of 56 properties from Axa for up to £60 million. Frogmore is placing 4.59 million shares at 54.5p with institutional investors, representing 8.9 per cent of the company's share capital.

ING deal to lift income

ING GROUP, the Dutch insurance and banking combine that owns Barings in Britain, is taking over Equitable of Iowa in the United States for \$2.2 billion (£1.3 billion). The acquisition will double ING's American life insurance operations, lifting premium income to \$4.3 billion from \$2.2 billion. ING will finance the deal with a mixture of borrowings and a placement of American Depository Shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

Pound hurts Renishaw

SHARES of Renishaw fell 62p to a two-year low of 280p as the specialist engineering exporter said the strength of sterling would force its pre-tax profits down to £17.5 million, about £5 million below market expectations. The company, which sells 90 per cent of its goods overseas, blamed the soaring pound for £4.5 million of the shortfall. Its sales rose by 6 per cent to £81.3 million in the year to June 30, after a £6.6 million reverse on translation into sterling.

Streamline's £100m deal

STREAMLINE, the road maintenance group, has won a £100 million contract to look after non-trunk roads in Cheshire for the next five years. The company will insert "cats eyes" on the roads, look after the drainage system and lay down red, non-slip patches on approaches to junctions. The deal comes a month after it won the £82 million contract to perform the same task in Warwickshire and gives the company a third of the privatised road maintenance market.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Trustees of the TRUST ACT 1925 that any person having a claim against the Estate of the deceased person's whose death occurred on or before 10th January 1997, and whose debts are set out below, is hereby required to present a claim for payment of the same in respect of the person's estate or to the person's representative before the 10th January 1998, failing which the debts will be distributed by the Trustees in accordance with the terms of the will.

WILLINGHAM JANE FAWCETT, The London, Fawcett, London, 100 Newgate Street, London, EC1A 7AA, died 8th December 1996, personal estate, £10,000.

RECARDED The Rt Hon Tony Blair, Prime Minister, 10 Downing Street, London, SW1, died 2nd June 1997, personal estate, £10,000.

RECARDED Mrs. M. J. G. Williams, 10 Downing Street, London, SW1, died 2nd June 1997, personal estate, £10,000.

RECARDED Mr. G. J. Williams, 10 Downing Street, London, SW1, died 2nd June 1997, personal estate, £10,000.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Inflation and rate fears put shares on the run

IT looks like odds-on for a quarter-point rise in interest rates tomorrow after the sharp jump in inflation last month.

City economists expect the Bank of England's independent economic policy committee to signal such a rise, the third in as many months. It could be followed by a similar rise next month.

This was not the news that the City and Britain's manufacturers wanted to hear. Another rise in interest rates will only serve to underpin the strong pound.

Both share prices and Government bonds were on the run yesterday. The FTSE 100 index closed just above its worst levels of the day with a fall of 52.3 at 4,758.5. The FTSE 250 was 26.1 down at 4,008. A total of 885 million shares changed hands.

Exporters and manufacturers were the worst hit, with TI Group down 19p at 283.1p after talk of a profits downgrade by Lehman Brothers, the US securities house. But Richard Jeffreys, economist at Charterhouse merchant bank, does not think the Bank of England committee will allow the strong pound to cloud its judgement over domestic economic policy.

IMI, down 14p at 283.1p, was also said to have been downgraded by Lehman. Other casualties of a strong pound included Smiths Industries, 12.1p off at 272.1p, Rolls-Royce, 6p cheaper at 221p, and Spirax Sarco, 40.1p lower at 60.6p. Less obvious companies were Renishaw, down 6.2p at 280p, and Tie Rack, 2p lighter at 144p.

The City gave a lukewarm reception to a drop in profits at GEC and the continuing delay in the group's restructuring programme. Brokers said the statement from George Simpson, chief executive, was long on words and short of substance. The decision to end its involvement with the GEC Alsthom venture was seen as the only significant move. The shares lost most of their recent gains, ending 24.1p lower at 353p.

Dixons hit 40p before relapsing to close 3p cheaper at 402.1p ahead of today's full-year numbers. Profits are expected to grow by around 40 per cent.

Burton Group got the thumbs up from brokers for its plans to demerge Debenhams, with the price



Peter Birse and Martin Budden of Birse Group, up 3p

touching 133.1p before closing 10.1p better at 125.1p. Société Générale, Strauss-Tubman, the broker, has put a valuation of up to 1,000 on Debenhams, while fixing a target price of 150p a share on Burton.

The second profits warning in three months left Dalgety nursing a fall of 30p at a new low of 222.1p. This time it blamed poor trading in the fourth quarter and revealed

There were some strange

marks going through in take-over target Cater Allen, as the price held steady at 57p. A line of 3.1 million shares was recorded at 57p, along with another of 967,000 at 57p and 540,000 at 567.1p. Abbey National already has an offer on the table of 580p, plus the 20p dividend.

The low bids in the first of four auctions for Woolwich shares saw the price drop 35p to 30p as turnover reached almost 18 million. Around 23 per cent of the shares issued attracted an average price of 315.3p. That compares with the 367.1p they began trading at on Monday. At last night's close the minimum windfall for its 2.5 million customers was £1,565.75.

The rest of the banks lost ground along with the market. The biggest falls were seen in Abbey National, 31p to 245.1p, Barclays, 14p to 121.17.1p, HSBC, 19.1p to 119.52.1p, Lloyds TSB, 14p to 66.1p, NatWest, 37.1p to 54.1p, and Standard Chartered 12.1p to 97.5p.

A near doubling of pre-tax profits and an upbeat statement on current trading lifted Birse Group 3p to 24.1p. Peter Birse, chairman, said the elimination of debt and a positive cash flow after years of losses was now a realistic objective. Garmore Investment now speaks for 2.12 million shares, or 11.1 per cent.

Eurotunnel firmed another 21.1p to 84.1p ahead of tomorrow's EGM. It now seems increasingly likely the group will obtain shareholder permission to proceed with its debt for equity swap with the consortium of 225 banks it owes almost £9 billion.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** That unexpected rise in the inflation rate took the edge off the bond market and produced a further flattening of the yield curve as shorter dated issues came under selling pressure.

In futures, the September series of the long gilt ended five ticks lower at £114.11, as 58,000 contracts were completed.

Among longer dated issues Treasury 8s per cent 2015 finished three ticks off at £110.16, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was 1.1p lower at 110.13.

□ **NEW YORK:** New hopes for corporate earnings were attributed to early session gains that saw the Dow Jones industrial average gain 52.47 points to 1,910.90 by midday.

THE wet weather in June turned out to be good news for the big four food retailers. The latest inflation numbers served to reveal a dramatic slowdown in food price deflation with distribution affected by the wet weather. The supermarket operators moved against the market trend with Asda firming 2.4p to 137.1p, J Sainsbury, 7.1p to 375p and Safeway 7.1p to 388p. Tesco 8p to 408.1p.

In February, brokers began a series of profit downgradings after Tesco alerted the City to the problem of falling food prices.

□ **INDIA:** New York

for corporate earnings were attributed to early session gains that saw the Dow Jones industrial average gain 52.47

points to 1,910.90 by midday.

□ **WHITE SUGAR (IOM):** The price of white sugar fell 1.1p to 114.1p.

□ **MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION:** The price of lamb fell 1.1p to 114.1p.

□ **COMMODITIES:** The price of oil fell 1.1p to 114.1p.

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A dozen years ago, Debenhams lost its independence after one of the most spectacular takeovers battles the City had seen. Now the department store group is to be set free once more, a stylishly reinvigorated version of its former self, hoping for a glamorous stock market listing to match.

In 1985, Sir Ralph Halperin was in his heyday at Burtons and the takeover was his biggest deal. It involved an extraordinary cast of City characters including Sir Terence Conran, Lord Harris of Peckham (then Sir Phil), Gerald Ronson, Anthony Barnes, the stockbroker who later achieved notoriety for his role in the Guinness affair, the Fayed brothers and, eventually and at length, a host of DTI inspectors.

It was an extraordinary maelstrom of City intrigue that whipped up around the jaded stores as the determined Sir Ralph pursued his quarry. Robert Thornton, then the chairman of Debenhams, was determined that the group should remain independent. It was trading poorly but had a proud history. From its beginnings as a small draper in Wigmore Street in 1778 it had grown, as Debenhams & Fredeley, to a chain of more than 60 traditional department stores plus Hamleys my store and the

Independent future in store for reinvigorated Debenhams

Harvey Nichols store in Knightsbridge. Sir Ralph, who was still highly respected in the City at that stage, had been thinking of making a bid for some time. He was finally persuaded to move when he teamed up with Sir Terence Conran, who as head of Habitat-Mothercare was then equally well-viewed as a retailer.

Under the deal struck between the two men, Sir Terence should have been given the contract to redesign all the Debenhams stores and 20 per cent of the store spaces to himself. His intention was to turn the fuddy-duddy stores, hardly changed from their Debenhams & Fredeley days, into more exciting galleries housing masses of small traders.

The plan could not have been more Eighties, and it was never to reach fruition. After the takeover was done, Habitat-Mothercare merged with British Home

Stores to form Storehouse and Sir Ralph decreed that Sir Terence was a rival rather than a collaborator. Their agreement was off and the galleria was ditched on the drawing board. But the temporary partnership had gained control, after fancy footwork that has still never been unravelled to some spectators' satisfaction.

In the end, it was Gerald Ronson, of Heron International, and Sir Phil Harris, then chairman of Harris Queensway, who unexpectedly gave Sir Ralph their support and ensured that the £50 million deal went through. The two men, who had appeared to favour the Debenhams side, held a 7.9 per cent stake which, combined with a 5 per cent block of shares mysteriously produced at the last minute by Cazenove, Burton's broker, took Burton's holding to above the magic 50 per

cent level. The controversial deal led to an inquiry by the DTI. It was alleged that Burton had entered into commercial deals with Heron and Harris Queensway prior to the bid's conclusion. Sir Ralph always denied this and, after the DTI inquiry was concluded, no further action was taken.

Although the inquiry had no long-term legal consequences, it was enough to dent Burton's reputation and hurt its share price. Sir Ralph's reputation had already gone far beyond the confines of the City and for all the wrong reasons as his tempestuous affair with Fiona Wright, the model, made tabloid headlines for weeks. More ill-judged expansion and property speculation finally led, in 1990, to his downfall and he was replaced by Laurence Cooklin.

While much of the Burton Group was falling to pieces in Sir Ralph's last years, he had had the good sense to appoint John

Hoerner to run Debenhams in 1987. Hoerner, an American, had been running LS Ayres, the Indianapolis retailer. At Debenhams, by focusing on own-brands and a carefully paced expansion, the business was transformed into a highly successful chain, which now has 92 department stores and room for further growth.

Hoerner's success at Debenhams led to him being offered the job of chief executive of the whole group and, just 15 months after Cooklin had replaced Sir Ralph, Hoerner took the top job from him.

But while Debenhams has gone from strength to strength, the multiple retailers — Top Shop, Top Man, Dorothy Perkins, Evans, Burton Menswear and Principles — have delivered more patchy performances that, the management believes, have hidden the true worth of the department store side.

It is certainly true that, despite the turbulent beginning, 12 years with Burton have left Debenhams in rude health. And even those who contested the bid would now have to admit that it looks particularly good by comparison with House of Fraser, of which it so nearly became a part.

SARAH CUNNINGHAM
Retail Correspondent

BUSINESS LETTERS

Shareholders retain control

From the President, Eurotunnel Plc

Sir, I write in response to your Commentary [Business News, July 3]. Based on facts which I am sure the Mandarins, Robert Bandinter and Lord Wakeham would confirm, my view is totally different.

Eurotunnel's shareholders will in fact retain at least a majority of the enlarged share capital following approval of the financial restructuring, so it is not correct to say that "by signing up, the shareholders will finally lose control of the group".

Shareholders may be able to participate in the forthcoming issue of shares to the banks. If they are able to do so, they will retain a correspondingly larger interest in the company.

Furthermore, by exercising the warrants which will be issued following approval of the financial restructuring, existing shareholders may be able to continue to retain at least 55.5 per cent of the shares in future.

Secondly, if the company performs as expected, there is no reason to expect a further refinancing.

The restructuring plan has been specifically designed to be robust enough to preclude the need for a further refinancing in all but a severe downside case. Therefore, it is not correct to say that the banks "will have to refinance in 1999 or 2000", nor is it correct to say that in any future refinancing the banks "will have enough votes to push the deal through". In any event, it is reasonable to question how many banks are likely still to be shareholders at that stage. Those that are would be bound by the restrictions of French law preventing shareholders voting on matters in which they have a conflict of interest.

Finally, by securing an extension to the concession shareholders will, if they vote in favour of financial restructuring, benefit from an increased share in long-term profits. It is unreasonable to suggest that the price for an extension of the Concession from 2052 should be a share of dividends as early as 2005. It would be a very unusual transaction for a company to pay the Government in advance for the privilege 50 years later of generating tax revenues for their benefit.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK PONSOLE,
President,
Eurotunnel Plc,
Cheriton Park,
Cheriton High Street,
Folkestone, Kent.

BA strikes at heart of labour relations

Philip Bassett
on what is at
stake and how
the result of
the dispute will
affect everyone

Labour equals strikes. For thousands of British Airways passengers who will be hit by strike action today, this key Conservative change in the election may now be resounding with new force: the first major industrial dispute since Labour came to government seems to signal the return of trade union power with a vengeance.

Eight weeks into a Labour Government, are the unions back and flexing their muscles? And will the British Airways strike mean that the Conservatives were right — that new Labour means old unions, old strikes, old ways?

In some respects, today's strike by up to 8,700 BA cabin crew who are members of the Transport and General Workers' Union will be done in a new way. Picketing huge sites such as London's Heathrow and Gatwick airports, with their multitude of entrances and exits, is almost impossible. So the union is designating this morning's strike a "family day" — turning pickets into picnics, urging striking members to bring their children along to picket, organising barbecues, blowing up balloons.

Part of this is a clear attempt to win the all-important PR battle. The union wants to convince the public that this is a big, successful company throwing its weight around against a group of employees who are on the side of the passengers. On the other hand, if BA can persuade people to believe that this is a dinosaur trade union, opposing progress and standing in the way of improved competitiveness, then it may bring public opinion on its side.

But behind the new techniques — Internet sites, call-in phone lines, glossy communications — lies in many ways a highly traditional dispute, even down to the secret, last-minute negotiations taking



Bob Aylng believes that BA must beat the strike and make its proposed changes if the airline is to succeed in a highly competitive global market

place yesterday in a Sussex hotel. Faced with tough competitive pressures, BA is seeking extensive changes in the way some key staff work. Faced with an employer taking such action, the highly traditional TGWU is resisting. From today the rock and the hard place are meeting.

BA's stance is rooted in the company's business efficiency programme (BEP), which Bob Aylng, the chief executive, is seeking to drive through the business. Airlines are highly competitive, global businesses, and BA needs to keep pace.

As a result of the BEP drive, BA is facing two disputes. One, about the sale of its in-flight catering business at Heathrow, may well be on the verge of resolution. TGWU ground staff members are balloting now on a new deal and BA ground staff members of the GMB general union voted this morning to accept it. But the other dispute, behind today's 72-hour strike, looks more intractable.

BA reached agreement in the spring on a new deal for stewards and stewardesses with a union called Cabin Crew '89 — a union that broke away from the TGWU in 1989 after sharp policy differences. CC'89 members balloted on the deal, and voted four-to-one to accept it.

The company says the pay restructuring deal, implemented on May 8, will give

rises in pensionable pay of between 14 per cent and 24 per cent by consolidating variable earnings into mainstream pay. The TGWU says it may lead to some staff losing money. BA accepts a "minority" may lose money, but is offering money-back guarantees to make up the shortfall. The TGWU's cabin crew section, BASSA, called a strike ballot on its imposition, and today's action is the result.

Technically, BA employees going on strike today are doing so against a deal which they already have in their pay packets. BA is insisting that it cannot negotiate with the TGWU on the deal, since CC'89 has already accepted it, and since cabin crew are already benefiting from it. In fact, TGWU officials did not even see the full text of the agreement until yesterday's talks. George Ryde, TGWU national aviation secretary, accuses BA of operating "virtual reality in a virtual airline."

Swirling around the dispute is some pretty high politics. Bob Aylng, a former government lawyer, is close to some key figures in the Labour leadership. He shared a fifth birthday party with Jack Straw, the Home Secretary and a long-time friend and neighbour. Tony Blair unsuccessfully tried to get him to head his No 10 policy unit, a job that the Prime Minister would like to fill with a senior business figure. Mr Aylng is leading the Government's Greenwich Dome Millennium project, alongside Peter Mandelson, Mr Blair's closest ministerial adviser. TGWU leaders believe that such close relationships mean that BA has all but complete government sanction in the dispute.

Both BA and the TGWU have been readying themselves for many months for today's strike. BA has trained and recruited replacement cabin crews. And because of its subdivided bargaining structures, which will mean that many cabin crew are unaffected by today's strike, BA will be able to present to the public today the impression of running many services. But senior BA managers recognise that many services, especially from Heathrow, will be hit hard.

BA has also been wading a hefty stick. Cabin crew who

take part in the strike will be heavily penalised. Staff travel concessions will be withdrawn for the next three years, and strikers will not be considered for promotion until spring 2000. Early retirement and voluntary severance options will also be withdrawn from strikers.

Staff going on strike face the prospect of being sacked, and — for only the second time in a British industrial dispute — of the company suing them for damages as a result of their breach of contract.

Both BA and the TGWU have been readying themselves for many months for today's strike. BA has trained and recruited replacement cabin crews. And because of its subdivided bargaining structures, which will mean that many cabin crew are unaffected by today's strike, BA will be able to present to the public today the impression of running many services. But senior BA managers recognise that many services, especially from Heathrow, will be hit hard.

BA has also been wading a hefty stick. Cabin crew who

aging capital." It is given by Nick Carter. He works for NatWest Markets. So he is clearly speaking from the heart.

House red

ON THE menu at Les Saveurs, the awesomely jointed French restaurant jointly owned by Marco Pierre White, the temperamental chef, and RF Hotels' Sir Rocco Forte's new venture there is a bottle of 1989 red burgundy, Domaine de la Romanee Conti. A big bottle, admittedly. It is priced at £45,000. So far no takers, but Forte assures me: "If anyone buys it, I'll come around and serve it myself."

MARTIN WALLER



Taylor no takers for £45,000 tipple

Inside job

PRISON does not seem to have dimmed Owen Oyston's entrepreneurial spirit. A year after being sent down for six years for rape, the flamboyant media and estate agency entrepreneur was indulging his love of publishing by lending £100,000 to keep the ailing newspaper *Sunday Business* afloat.

The title, in which Pizza Express tycoon Luke Johnson has an interest, was threatened when Group 2000, which owns 75 per cent of the paper, collapsed last week. Edward Klemka, the receiver, told me yesterday that the paper only appeared last weekend

because Tom Rubython, its founder, produced a £100,000 cheque on Friday evening. "The paper will survive. The paper will be sold in the next few days," Klemka said confidently.

Chatting to Rubython, it emerged that Oyston, who lost more than £200,000 when *Sunday Business* went into administration last summer, was the kind benefactor who lent the money. But will he lend Rubython enough money to buy the paper, now? Klemka has put the snake up for sale? "Oh, I don't think I'm a player," Rubython tells me. "There's a huge offer on the table." Expect news soon.

Postal code

WELL, stone me! Strike a light! Knock me down with a feather! Merrill Lynch is, wait for it, going to develop the Post Office sorting office in King Edward Street, just north of St Paul's, for its new headquarters. This has been about the worst-kept secret in London for some months, even if the US investment bank has always refused to confirm it. As I reported a while back, Merrill even had three British builders producing competing tenders for the site, none of whom would be terribly pleased to have had their time wasted because the Americans have opted for Neasden even if

I would not normally recommend the Chartered Institute of Banking's 50th international banking summer school next week at St John's College, Cambridge, for a little light relief. But Monday's session could be a hoot. Slotted in at 4pm is a paper on "Strategic risk issues in man-



"Pity they can't produce something more tasty for pets"

• CREST, the new share dealing service, put out a briefing note with a difference this week. It was about the arrangements for the Woolwich float and the BZW auction. The note arrived, alas, as one baffled regional stockbroker entirely in Greek.

Not classical Greek, nor yet demotic Greek as she is spoken on the streets of Athens today. Instead, as far as I can tell, it is a direct transliteration of each original English letter. Crest was saying nothing, but I blame a rogue computer program. Quite why anyone would want to write a

Interest rates for Midland Private Banking customers

With effect from 8 July 1997

| | Gross % | Net % |
|---------------------------------|---------|-------|
| Private Banking Current Account | | |
| Up to £2,000 | 0.30 | 0.24 |
| £2,000+ | 1.25 | 1.00 |
| £10,000+ | 2.06 | 2.36 |

| | Gross % | Net % |
|---|---------|-------|
| Private Banking Savings Account (monthly interest option) | | |
| Up to £25,000 | 4.17 | 3.33 |
| £25,000+ | 4.41 | 3.52 |
| £50,000+ | 4.65 | 3.72 |
| £100,000+ | 5.13 | 4.10 |

| | Gross % | Net % |
|--|---------|-------|
| Private Banking Savings Account (annual interest option) | | |
| Up to £25,000 | 4.25 | 3.48 |
| £25,000+ | 4.50 | 3.60 |
| £50,000+ | 4.75 | 3.80 |
| £100,000+ | 5.25 | 4.20 |

| | Gross % | Net % |
|---|---------|-------|
| Investment Management | | |
| Cash held on the Capital Account within our Investment Management Service will earn interest at the following | | |

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

| | Stk | Buy | +/- | Yld | | Stk | Buy | +/- | Yld | | Stk | Buy | +/- | Yld | | Stk | Buy | +/- | Yld | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|------|--|-------|-------|--------|--------|--|-------|-----------|--------|------|--|--------|--------|---------|------|--|
| For 40 see Cover Update | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ABA QUALITY & LAW UNIT TRUST MTRS | 158.13 | 170.04 | + 11.97 | 9.7% | | 36.35 | 31.30 | - 5.05 | - 2.4% | | 63.15 | 62.90 | - 0.25 | 4.0% | | 111.30 | 110.10 | - 1.10 | 4.3% | |
| ABA Quality & Law Ltd | 107.92 | 115.29 | + 7.37 | 9.5% | | 25.60 | 26.60 | + 0.99 | - 0.3% | | 58.11 | 59.27 | + 1.16 | 4.0% | | 172.80 | 165.10 | - 7.70 | 1.6% | |
| General Acc | 53.21 | 55.25 | + 2.04 | 9.8% | | 45.50 | 45.50 | - 0.00 | - 0.2% | | 59.11 | 59.27 | + 0.16 | 4.0% | | 229.20 | 210.20 | - 19.00 | 2.7% | |
| Gen. Acc. & Law | 54.02 | 54.22 | + 0.20 | 9.8% | | 45.50 | 45.50 | - 0.00 | - 0.2% | | 59.11 | 59.27 | + 0.16 | 4.0% | | 229.20 | 210.20 | - 19.00 | 2.7% | |
| ABA Growth Inc | 57.63 | 59.00 | + 1.37 | 9.5% | | 45.50 | 45.50 | - 0.00 | - 0.2% | | 59.11 | 59.27 | + 0.16 | 4.0% | | 218.20 | 201.20 | - 17.00 | 2.7% | |
| ABA Growth Inc | 56.90 | 56.90 | - 0.00 | 9.5% | | 45.50 | 45.50 | - 0.00 | - 0.2% | | 59.11 | 59.27 | + 0.16 | 4.0% | | 218.20 | 201.20 | - 17.00 | 2.7% | |
| Higher Inc Acc | 56.80 | 56.90 | + 0.10 | 9.5% | | 45.50 | 45.50 | - 0.00 | - 0.2% | | 59.11 | 59.27 | + 0.16 | 4.0% | | 218.20 | 201.20 | - 17.00 | 2.7% | |
| Higher Inc Acc | 56.80 | 56.90 | + 0.10 | 9.5% | | 45.50 | 45.50 | - 0.00 | - 0.2% | | 59.11 | 59.27 | + 0.16 | 4.0% | | 218.20 | 201.20 | - 17.00 | 2.7% | |
| Gen. Acc. & Law | 56.80 | 56.90 | + 0.10 | 9.5% | | 45.50 | 45.50 | - 0.00 | - 0.2% | | 59.11 | 59.27 | + 0.16 | 4.0% | | 218.20 | 201.20 | - 17.00 | 2.7% | |
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| Gen. Acc. & Law | 56.80 | 56.90 | + 0.10 | 9.5% | | 45.50 | 45.50 | - 0.00 | - 0.2% | | 59.11 | 59.27 | + 0.16 | 4.0% | | 218.20 | 201.20 | - 17.00 | 2.7% | |
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| Gen. Acc. & Law | 56.80 | 56.90 | + 0.10 | 9.5% | | 45.50 | 45.50 | - 0.00 | - 0.2% | | 59.11 | 59.27 | + 0.16 | 4.0% | | 218.20 | 201.20 | - 17.00 | 2.7% | |
| Gen. Acc. & Law | 56.80 | 56.90 | + 0.10 | 9.5% | | 45.50 | 45.50 | - 0.00 | - 0.2% | | 59.11 | 59.27 | + 0.16 | 4.0% | | 218.20 | 201.20 | - 17.00 | 2.7% | |
| Gen. Acc. & Law | 56.80 | 56.90 | + 0.10 | 9.5% | | 45.50 | 45.50 | - 0.00 | - 0.2% | | 59.11 | 59.27 | + 0.16 | 4.0% | | 218.20 | 201.20 | - 17.00 | 2.7% | |
| Gen. Acc. & Law | 56.80 | 56.90 | + 0.10 | 9.5% | | 45.50 | 45.50 | - 0.00 | - 0.2% | | 59.11 | 59.27 | + 0.16 | 4.0% | | 218.20 | 201.20 | - 17.00 | 2.7% | |
| Gen. Acc. & Law | 56.80 | 56.90 | + 0.10 | 9.5% | | 45.50 | 45.50 | - 0.00 | - 0.2% | | 59.11 | 59.27 | + 0.16 | 4.0% | | 218.20 | 201.20 | - 17.00 | 2.7% | |
| Gen. Acc. & Law | 56.80 | 56.90 | + 0.10 | 9.5% | | 45.50 | 45.50 | - 0.00 | - 0.2% | | 59.11 | 59.27</td | | | | | | | | |

A promising playwright moves up to a first-division venue – and fails. Plus, black comedy is alive but ailing in Dublin



Geraldine McEwan (second from left) and family in playwright Samuel Adamson's disappointing major league debut, *Grace Note*

MARK O'ROWE has a taste for blood. Whether as a means of adding intensity to his narratives, or simply establishing his hard-boiled Dublin milieu, the young playwright is quick to reach for the deadly weapon, to deal the brutal blow and then watch the consequences unfold as they will.

For Paul (Ger Carey), the man at the centre of O'Rowe's *From Both Hips* (Project at the Mint, Dublin), the consequences have been severe. He has accidentally been shot by Willy (Sean Rocks), a far too green recruit to the drugs squad, in a botched raid, and now returns home to a life that may not, it appears, have been perfect even before the incident that crippled him.

Like Harold Pinter, one of his obvious godfathers, O'Rowe likes to confuse his audience's easy notions of location and milieu, luring them in with suggestions of

Two stabs at a killing joke

NEW IRISH DRAMA

IF O'ROWE has a probing approach to the place of laughter in his view of Dublin life, Brendan O'Carroll has no doubt as to its centrality. Not that this prevents the Dublin writer and stand-up comedian from creating a deceptively resonant piece of theatre in Grandad's Sure Lilly's Still Alive (at the Gaiety). At its base, the play is an Irish re-working of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, with the action transferred to an old people's home. The setting is a clever stroke, allowing O'Carroll to buffer the shock value of

his smut by having it voiced by pensioners.

His play refuses the desensitisation of the over-sixties, while at the same time finding a poignant slapstick in the exertions of geriatric sex. Letting loose salvo after salvo of crude humour against the backdrop of the grim nether-world of a retirement home offers an appealingly complex texture to what is, at a very obvious level, a scatological workout, in which characters debate such questions as the difference between sounds made at orgasm and those made on the lavatory.

What O'Carroll has devised is an effective way of dealing with a harsh and ignored aspect of 20th-century life, a period that can never be fully planned. As Charlie, O'Carroll's abandoned geriatric, puts it: "How was I to know I'd live this long?"

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Mark this down to inexperience

Samuel Adamson's *Clocks and Whistles* brought Dominic Dromgoole's regime at the Bush to a climactic close last year. It was one of that theatre's trademark exercises in urban enigma: a first play by a 26-year-old dramatist that struck us all as precociously sharp about the callow bohemians of West London. It even offered Kate Beckinsale as a Sloaney actress nervously flitting between a gay publisher, a bisexual poet and a sugar-daddy something-or-other.

But can fringe discoveries such as Adamson achieve prominence on the mainstream map? Can they write for theatres as large and traditional as the Old Vic, as well as artis as cramped and pokey as the Bush? It was partly in the hope of proving that this jump could be successfully made that Dromgoole agreed to become Peter Hall's second in command at the Vic, a bright young lieutenant with special responsibility for new drama. But an obvious question arises: is Adamson the right choice for promotion?

On the evidence of *Grace Note*, no, not yet he isn't. True, one problem might have been cured if the hectic turnover of plays at the Vic allowed more than a single

preview, before opening night. Dromgoole's cast might have realised that more than pub-sized acting was needed if they were to project to seat H9 and points beyond. But inaudibility combined with slack, dull exegesis and none-too-interesting characterisation to send me out for my interval coffee a fretful, irritated man.

Who are these people popping in and out of "Daniel and Ellie's house in West London"? It takes time that should be spent on more rewarding matters to twig just how they are related to Grace, a one-time cellist now slipping in and out of senility. Jennifer and Daniel are the twins she damaged by trying to foist musical careers on them. Jack is the coarse, more robust third child she had by a bassoon player from Idaho. Ellie is the kindly Aussie who has made a marriage of convenience to Daniel, who fancies nice young Nick. Please feel free to take this notice as a crib to the Vic if you see *Grace Note*.

I cannot hugely recommend the journey. The play asks what relatives with money worries of their

own should do with and for Grace, in Geraldine McEwan's performance a stily, wayward old lady with a love of Joan Sutherland and a tendency to look a bit like the mad Lucia di Lammermoor, especially when she is flitting round in a white nightdress drinking water out of flower-vases. But the conflicts lack bite. The stakes never seem high. Who cares what her mostly unlovable brood does with Grace?

There are a few funny lines and one hilarious if derivative moment when Holly Aird, exuding warmth and decency as Ellie, concludes that Grace has expired in her chair, only to do a double-somersault when the old girl wakes up and switches TV channels. But such pluses come with decided minuses, prime among which is Adamson's sentimental affection for his protagonist. McEwan brings all her feline skills to the part, purring and noiselessly padding about and mocking others with her Siamese-cat looks. Even so, is her Grace the canny eccentric and charming old card Adamson evidently thinks? I fear I find the alternative view more tenable. She's a silly, forgettable bore.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Daniel Rosenthal meets the indefatigable boss of the Hampstead Theatre

The star who stays backstage



Jenny Topper: "I do have an ability to come up with ideas that can help excellent writers become better"

Read and inwardly digest 500 new plays in the next 12 months and you will be following the cultural diet on which Jenny Topper has thrived for the past 20 years. In that time she has worked her way through the mountainous slush piles of just two theatres: the Bush, where she was co-director; and the Hampstead, where she has been artistic director since 1988. Her choice and development of plays has done much to sustain both venues' reputations as immensely fertile nurseries for new writing.

Full-length works by Kevin Elyot, Lucy Gammie, Billy Roche, Tony Kushner and Terry Johnson were among the plays premiered at the Bush between 1987 and 1988. Johnson, Frank McGuinness and Brad Fraser head the list of dramatists whose new writing has been staged, often to award-winning effect, under Topper's Hampstead tenure. Both posts have provided her with "an extraordinarily rewarding existence" which, lottery willing, will soon take an adventurous new dimension.

The Hampstead's latest show provides a fine example of Topper's hands-on approach. Simon Block's second play, *Chimps* – a black comedy about an artistic couple whose life is turned upside-down by a pair of menacing salesmen – was already "in proper shape" when Topper was handed the manuscript by its commissioning producer, Michael Codron.

"Chimps was extremely funny and dark. Our literary manager called it 'Kafka meets Ray Cooney meets David Mamet,'" Topper explains. "But in the opening exchanges Simon had not created a sufficiently weighted sense of the couple's history to make the ensuing events seem plausible. Our conversations about this and other points saw it through three further drafts.

"I don't have the marvellous ear for dialogue that Simon and some other writers have, and I'm deeply envious of it. I also lack the tremendous emotional and intellectual stamina needed to become a good director. But what I do have is an ear for other people's dialogue and an ability to come up with ideas that can help excellent writers become better."

Terry Johnson, four of whose plays have received the Topper treatment, most recently *Dead Funny*, doesn't contradict that assessment. "Her input to my script has always been excellent: respectful and incisive in equal measure," he says. "She also keeps her hand firmly on the helm during a play's production, steering you towards the best possible result."

Johnson is equally enthusiastic about Topper's lottery plan for the Hampstead. Provided funding approval and planning permission are given by, respectively, the Arts Council and Camden Council (the Hampstead's two main sources of revenue subsidy), the steeply raked, early Sixties auditorium and adjoining offices would be demolished. In

its place, on vacant ground just 200 yards away from the present site, would come a "genuinely unique" venture which has been Topper's goal since before the first lottery tickets were sold.

From autumn 2000, there would be a 200-seat theatre for the initial runs of our own

shows, with the same intimacy as the current, 174-seat auditorium," she explains. "But what makes this project so special is that under the same roof, and serviced by the same staff, we would also have a 400-seat sister theatre to take transfers from the 200-seater, or from places like the Almeida, the

Bush, or from venues outside London. We would no longer be a fringe venue with inadequate facilities."

Her desire to transform the Hampstead into a more flexible and, potentially, far more profitable home for contemporary drama goes hand in hand with her passionate belief that to prevent the best young dramatists being seduced by chequebook-waving television producers, "we have to find a way of paying them the same for a play as they can get for an episode of *Casualty*".

She has trumpeted that message repeatedly since taking over as chairman of the Arts Council's New Writing Committee last year. And it tempers her excitement about the late Nineties' harvest of first-rate new plays. Even if the lottery application were to be turned down, however, she says that the chances of her jumping ship are close to zero. "So long as I can continue to work with good writers," she adds, "the thought of walking away from the Hampstead is unbearable."

• *Chimps* preview at the Hampstead Theatre, NW3 (0171-722 9300) from tomorrow

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Exclusive private view at the Tate Gallery

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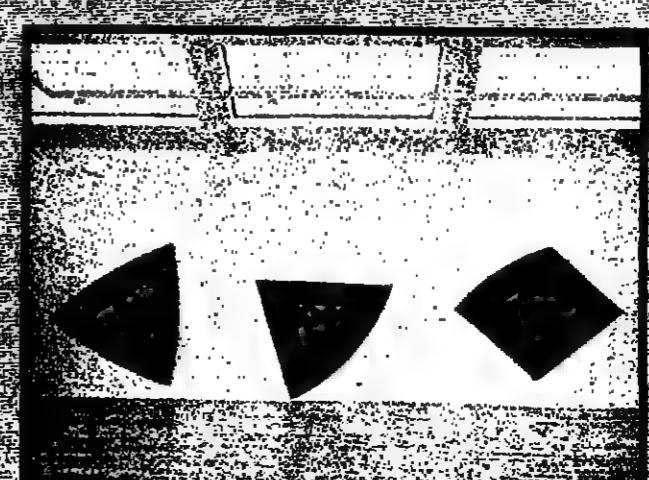
Tuesday July 22

to celebrate the

Tate Gallery's

100th birthday

100th



The entire gallery will be open to the public, including the American Turner Collection, Kelly's *Turner* is the first retrospective of the 19th-century artist's work in Britain. It includes more than 50 works from 1840 to the present day. Kelly's paintings (see illustration) are based on careful observations of the real world, translated into abstract works of the greatest possible purity, precision and form.

You will be able to see a selection of 100 prints of special interest, two rooms of Victorian and Pre-Raphaelite paintings and drawings, Raphael's paintings and Henry Moore's sculpture. The Tate will also have a display of the gallery's collection of prints, with a display of works from the original collection.

The gallery's 100th anniversary exhibition, *Turner: 100*, will focus on the work of the

100th person, include caravans

and a glass of wine.

CHANGING TIMES

مكتبة الأصل

alive but ailing in D...
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Do it in 10s



Foster's new Museum of Design in Essen (bottom), created out of a disused colliery building. The vivid displays (top) have attracted 10,000 visitors in the first four weeks

MUSIC: Hilary Finch on a magical bicentenary Schubertiade in Austria

Leader in the Lieder business

During the decade leading up to this year's great Schubert jubilee, the annual Schubertiade in the Alpine foothills of Austria's Vorarlberg has been expanding almost beyond recognition. In the early days, a select company of cognoscenti would gather in the tiny courtyard of the Palasthof in the village of Hohenems.

Now, the nearby medieval town of Feldkirch, with its 1,000-seater Montforthaus and Music Conservatory, hosts what is a major festival, this year ready with Schubert's 200th birthday celebrations. And although Schubert never visited this tip of Austria, Feldkirch provides the most Schubertian of settings, with a glacial river, a watermill, linden trees, and even a forest conveniently situated to form an outdoor stage for the festival's *Musik im grünen* concert series.

The air was certainly vibrant. As Robert Holl prepared for his performance of *Die Schöne Müllerin* the rushing *Bächlein* was in full spate, and an excited whispering disclosed the presence of a diminutive elderly lady who was a descendant of some other than Schubert's brother, Ferdinand.



Schubert: celebrated in song and with exhibitions

Meister, and one of them thanks to the sudden indisposition of Thomas Hampson — found himself unexpectedly projected to the footlights in a sold-out Montforthaus. Sirian Genz (who made a memorable Wigmore Hall debut last March) sang a fast, ardent *Winterreise* teeming with ideas, occasionally technically insecure, but received with warm applause.

The Feldkirch Schubertiade has always taken the nurturing of young talent every bit as seriously as the assembling of the great. A new little May Schubertiade in the nearby Schloss Achberg is devoted entirely to these "Junge

Schubert's song-cycle in *Bilder-Zyklus* of their own Expressionistic woodcuts, fine pencil drawings, and dark visions in charcoal and chalk took their place in a display of iconography and hagiography dominated by an impressive pair of exhibitions in Schloss Achberg and in the Stadtmuseum of nearby Lindau. A loving survey of Schubert's life was completed by posterity's view of the composer. Franz's spectacles dangled above the manuscript of *Die Forelle*, the Viennese postcard-kitsch of Otto Novak gave way to the canvases of Fischer-Dieskau himself.

Back in Feldkirch, another young baritone and pupil of Fischer-Dieskau, Dietrich Henschel, eloquently performed two arias each from Schubert's operas *Die Zwilingsbrüder* and *Alfonso und Estrella*, with the Camerata Academica of Salzburg conducted by Pinhas Steinberg. That evening close-focused the festival's single but serious shortcoming: in their new venues, a concert or semi-staged performance of one of the composer's many problematic but unnecessarily neglected operas should surely not have been beyond their financial or artistic resources.

Foster takes the green route down the Ruhr

A top British architect is transforming Germany's grimy industrial heartland. Marcus Binney reports

It is the ultimate shotgun marriage: the sleek, lightweight, transparent, squeaky-clean architecture of Sir Norman Foster and the brooding, stony mills, harbours, chimneys and collieries of the Ruhr. Foster moved into Germany as recession struck Britain in the late 1980s, and this summer four new Foster buildings have opened within little more than a dozen miles of each other.

Here he presents Germany with the building of the future: high-tech, automated ... and yet fashionably "green". It doesn't sweep away the Ruhr's mighty industrial heritage, but it does show it off to spectacular advantage.

At Duisburg, Foster was called in to spark the revival of giant flour mills and warehouses beside the largest river harbour in the world, built 100 years ago to bring bread to the workers via a boat-lift opened by the Kaiser himself. Foster has transformed a grainstore into a sleek headquarters for the development corporation, with glass partitions contrasting with exposed wooden roof-trusses. Outside, a fountain operated by photo-sensitive cells sports sine wave action every time the sun comes out.

Now, by Foster has been called in to sow the seeds of a new Silicon Valley, with state-of-the-art facilities for computer geniuses. To soften the bulk of his new Micro Electronic Centre, Foster has designed it as a high-tech version of a roll-top bread bin, with facade and roof forming one continuous dramatic curve of glass and silvered aluminium.

In downtime like those of the past few weeks, the whole front could have become a Niagara, with water cascading over the entrance. But Foster has neatly inserted a series of deep concealed gutters to siphon off all the water. In hot weather, the huge areas of glass are 30 per cent shaded by a grid of steel rungs which ingeniously double as a cleaning ladder. And the rear wall, facing west, is equally high-tech, shaded by banks of piston-operated external blinds, shaped like aerosols and sturdy enough to withstand hurricane force winds.

Once inside you wonder why the atria are wedge-shaped. "The Germans have very strict daylighting laws and this brings the maximum natural light into the offices," says Foster's partner, David Nelson. The lightweight roof is supported by the slenderest of concrete columns. "Our German engineer Reinhard Meyer gives us skinnier columns than we get in England," says Paul Kalkhoven, Foster's Dutch associate. "But so far, nothing has gone down."

Thanks to Germany's well-established "green" policies, fully air-conditioned offices are on the way out. "Instead of pumping cold air round, we pump chilled water," says Nelson. What might be large light fittings are shiny metal ceiling water-chiller units. "It's critical to control humidity levels, otherwise they would drip on people working below," adds Kalkhoven.

Foster has doubled the size of the headquarters of Aigoplan, a firm of factory planners. "We have six architects on our staff who could have done a great job, but if we'd chosen one, we would have offended all the others," says the company's Gunther Bergmann. Inside, Foster has done his best-ever staircase. It is dubbed the Skywalk, rising in one straight line from bottom to top, hanging free of the walls, with open treads and glass balustrades.

For those who want something smarter than exposed concrete, Foster provides suspended panels of white cotton, like trampolines, with space between for lights and sprinklers. And inside the door to each room is a nine-button panel that enables you to switch on front or back lights according to need, operate the underfloor heating to choice, and open and close external blinds.

At Mülheim, meanwhile,

is the new Museum of Design in Essen. Here the 1932 colliery buildings, though completed before Hitler seized power, are so garranous that they were actually used as a backdrop for Nazi rallies.

Smooth walls of brown brick, framed by rust-red painted steel, conceal the fact that the main building is one huge boilerhouse filled to the roof with vast furnaces, coal-elevators, coal-shutes, conveyor-belts, gangways and miles of copper tubes. It's enough to give you lung cancer by looking at it," exclaimed one of my

complaints.

Foster, to his everlasting credit, has retained not only the machinery, but the whole ethos of the place. He has created a piece of sculpture such as Rachel Whiteread could only dream of. Asbestos and dust have been removed but the patina remains. "I call it the Raw Lemon Aesthetic, like biting into a cold sharp

lemon," says Nelson. One vast

boiler has been preserved intact, the backs of the others have been cut out to create two tiers of galleries, exposing more bristling pipework in the process.

To draw attention to the displays, the curator has resorted to every trick — upended cars, rotating showcases, fabrics displayed like flying carpets, kitchen tops stuck in coal-hoppers, accompanied by pulsating electronic music. But it works. It has attracted 10,000 visitors in the first four weeks.

Here, as in his Royal Academy galleries, Foster shows that modernism, rigorously applied, can transform old buildings without destroying them — indeed, barely touching them. New Foster elements such as walkways, staircases and floors hang largely free of the structure and the machinery. Whether it is a curator's dream or a nightmare, Foster has ensured the greatest exhibit is the boilerhouse itself, transforming the Ruhr's rusting heritage into a stupendous work of art.

GREAT BRITISH HOPE

Rising stars in the arts firmament

GARY WILLIAMS

Age: 26

Who is he? A Grimsby-born crooner for the Nineties. He brings his acclaimed standards show to the Covent Garden cabaret, Centre Stage, on Friday.

Is there still an audience for Jerome Kern and Irving Berlin? Why not? Look at the success of Harry Connick Jr and his swing big band. Williams' mature vocals have already won over older hands such as DJ David Jacobs, and he is determined to build up the same youth following as young Harry.

Then the working men's clubs beckoned? Yes, a hard slog across the lower reaches of the variety circuit. His first break came with a gig with the BBC Big Band in Hull in November 1995. "It was the first time I'd sung in front of



more, he didn't have the heart to admit that he had never heard of him.

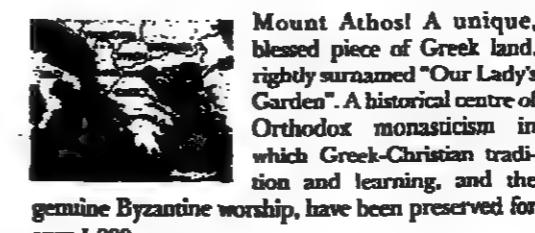
Any recordings yet? He's taken part in an all-star tribute to Frank Loesser and Julie Styne, headed by Barbara Dickson, Gary Wilmer and Ron Moody. He has also put out his own disc, *Lullaby of Broadway*, a low-budget but exuberant journey through Tin Pan Alley.

What's next? Williams wants to work on adding a more contemporary mood to the standard repertoire — without alienating older listeners: "Barbara Dickson gave me good advice when she told me there's no point singing a number if you don't bring something different to it."

CLIVE DAVIS



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The former St Andrew's School at Shandon, in Argyll and Bute, left, and Broadoaks, a house, dairy and stables in greenbelt country at West Byfleet, Surrey, are among the more substantial surplus Defence properties for sale



The Ministry of Defence is one of Britain's biggest property owners. Its inventory includes historic buildings, official residences for senior officers, married quarters, estates, wooded cottages and the odd hangar and church. Now it is offering many of those buildings for sale, presenting an intriguing opportunity for potential housebuyers and developers.

The MoD owns about 1,300 sites containing more than 90,000 buildings, including the monolithic 1950s headquarters in Whitehall — which is not for sale, although there are plans for the private sector to refurbish it and to manage and maintain it.

Brian Hirst, chief executive of the MoD's Defence Estate Organisation, says the ministry owns 65 million sq metres of floor space, the equivalent to 300 big shopping centres.

The average householder might not normally consider turning to the MoD for a bargain. Only the truly ambitious would be interested in buying an obsolete RAF base or a decaying Army barracks, and only the truly visionary would know how to convert an aircraft hangar to something habitable.

However, there are bargains to be had, although the best are likely to be in remote areas. A good example is the sale of 90 houses on

the Outer Hebrides island of Benbecula. The MoD is so desperate to get rid of them that a visitor with a chequebook could almost name his or her price.

Benbecula is a tiny island with a diminishing military presence where the three Services carry out live firing by launching missiles and shells out to sea from a coastal range. The firings are a considerable distance from the 90 homes for sale and in every other respect, a purchase of one of the empty MoD married quarters would offer the more intrepid would-be holiday/weekend house owner guaranteed peace and a virtual fishing paradise.

The houses, which are dotted around in packets, are two-bedroom and three-bedroom terrace houses, built about ten years ago. There is an air-link to Glasgow, and a ferry service. The firing

range and a radar station are expected to remain operational for the foreseeable future, although there were plans to close them down.

The Services' married quarters in England and Wales were sold en bloc to Anninton Homes last year as part of the previous Government's decision to raise substantial sums for the Treasury and at the same time to relieve the MoD of some of the burdens of property ownership. The sale price was £1.66

million. The Benbecula homes, and a few other pockets of housing, were not part of the deal. But the majority of the quarters are now in the hands of the private company that leases

back to the MoD those properties still required for Service families.

Empty quarters no longer needed by the ministry are already on the market — 2,400 were handed over as a first batch — and Anninton has been promised, as part of the deal, a minimum of 700 houses a year for sale for 25 years.

H amish Mackay, the newly appointed chief executive of Anninton Homes, is impressed by the married quarters. He says: "They are better built than the average council house, and they are selling at a good rate, some to ex-service men who had lived in them before, and others to the general

public or to local authorities and housing associations."

About 25 per cent of the 2,400 vacant houses have now been sold. Some, however, are more difficult to market.

Mr Mackay says: "We have 250 units for sale in Haverton West (in Dyfed), but the area is economically depressed and they are going to take a long time to sell. In contrast, we have some Service married quarters to sell in the village of Ambrosden, near Bicester in Oxfordshire, a nice area to live. They are selling more quickly."

His plan for the thousands of surplus MoD homes that will come on the market over the next few years is to provide each house with

an Anninton "seal of approval", so that people buying them will know there are certain minimum standards they can take for granted.

The general aim of MoD property chief Brian Hirst is to "get rid of" between 1,000 and 1,500 properties a year from the ministry's huge estate, providing an annual turnover of about £100 million. This is comparatively limited when set against the annual sale of about 1.2 million houses by other property owners and landlords throughout the country. But an increasing number of MoD homes and properties is going to be available to the public and to housing developers over the next two decades, because of the reducing size of the Armed Forces after the end of the Cold War and the growing demand within the Services for owner-occupation.

Among the more substantial properties now on the market are

part of the former St Andrew's School at Shandon in Argyll and Bute; Broadoaks, a house, dairy and stables in greenbelt country at West Byfleet, Surrey; and a squash courts site at Caterick garrison in north Yorkshire.

One of the most recent estates to come on the market is the former Intelligence Corps headquarters at Ashford in Kent, off the M20. The site is effectively split in two because the line of the proposed Channel Tunnel rail link runs right down the middle. The estate consists mainly of office buildings and houses, and also some agricultural land.

Another site for sale is Bowden Park, a former Royal Navy recreation ground at Crowshill in Plymouth.

It consists of two playing fields with a timber-built pavilion. There are privately owned houses and bungalows on three sides of the plot.

The MoD owns about 700 buildings that are listed as having historical or architectural interest, but most them Grade II or Grade III, but a few, such as the Royal Naval College at Greenwich, Grade I. Some of them come up for sale. In 1995-96, the sales included Fort Charlotte in Lerwick, Bobcet Hall in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and King's Old Building, Stirling Castle.

Services property offers bargains for the bold

Fancy a hangar? Defence buildings present intriguing options for adventurous buyers, Michael Evans reports

Orwell's novel home for sale

IN THE MARKET

ONCE the home of George Orwell, 2 Kits Lane in Walthamstow, near Baldock in Hertfordshire, is being sold by Bryan Bishop & Partners. Orwell lived there on and off between 1936 and 1947, after he was wounded in the Spanish Civil War and ran part of the

cottage as a small general store. He would open in the mornings, leaving afternoons free for writing. *The Road to Wigan Pier* and *Animal Farm* were written there.

□ The Hay Bridge Nature Reserve, near Ulverston in Cumbria, which was estab-

lished 26 years ago, is for sale for about £440,000.

The Hay Bridge Nature Reserve Society, a charity, is the tenant of the reserve centre, based in a classic Lake District barn. But the lease expires at the end of this year and the new owners would have the choice of renewing their lease or managing the reserve themselves. Details: Anne Fraham, 01229 861412.

□ Ninety Midland Bank branches will be sold at auction by Healy & Baker at the Piccadilly offices of Bafta, the film and television academy, next Tuesday. The lots — spread throughout England and Wales — are likely to fetch from £60,000 to more than £500,000.

□ The sale of a four-bedroom villa with a pool near Marbella will include a 58ft yacht. Casa Zazou, near Puerto Banus, is set in landscaped gardens with a tennis court and has air-conditioning and satellite television. The yacht has a berth in Puerto Banus. Details: 0171-937 3722 or (Spain) 0334 52 88 323.

□ *Domus Nova* is a new property-search consultancy run by Nick Ferrand, a former *Vogue* photographer. Accordingly, it has a trend "classic" list, including Paul Smith, the designer, Karen Mulder, the supermodel, and Jarvis Cocker of Pulp.

□ Heritage Open Days take place on September 13 and 14. Almost 2,000 properties, many of them normally closed to the public, will open, free of admission. Among them will be Surrey House, Norwich Stowe School near Buckingham, and Small Heath Mine in Telford. Details: 0181-5659.

□ *The World*, a new ship which will become the first residential community at sea, was launched — as a "concept" — yesterday by Savills, in conjunction with a Norwegian group, headed by Knut Kloster. The ship, which will have 250 fully furnished private residences, will start a round-the-world itinerary in 1999. Prices range from £800,000 to £4.5 million and the ship will have a full-time crew of 500.

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CHANGING TIMES

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RACING: JOCKEY COULD FORFEIT ANOTHER CLASSIC-WINNING MOUNT AS MORE FUEL IS ADDED TO ECLIPSE DEBATE

Fallon in danger of losing ride on Sleepytime

By CHRIS McGRATH

FOR someone who stands accused of hot-headedness, Kieren Fallon yesterday looked remarkably like the only person keeping his cool — and dignity — over the defeat of Bosra Sham in the Coral-Eclipse Stakes last Saturday. It does not, however, appear to be doing him much good.

Although Henry Cecil, his employer, appeared suitably embarrassed by his theatrical disgust with Fallon's ride at Sandown, the problem continues to simmer for the season's leading jockey. Not only did Cecil confirm that Fallon would be replaced on Bosra Sham in her future races; it now seems possible that he will also lose the ride on Sleepytime, the filly on whom he won the 1,000 Guineas.

Tote Cherry-Downes, racing manager to Charles Wacker III, emphasised that he had not yet spoken to Sleepytime's owner, but his own opinions of Fallon sounded discouraging.

Personally, he was "not impressed" by what he had seen in the Eclipse; more importantly, he also admitted to

concern with the jockey's tactics in the Guineas, and his riding of Ali-Royal at Royal Ascot. "It's nice having these horses, but it doesn't have to be a heartstopper every time. We were very lucky to win the Guineas. Charles had almost turned the television off."

In calmer vein, Cecil went on to elaborate exactly where he felt the Eclipse had been lost. It was not, as general-

Kieren Fallon will ride Yashmak, winner of the Ribblesdale Stakes at Royal Ascot, for Henry Cecil in the Kildangan Stud Irish Oaks on Sunday. Cecil decided yesterday not to supplement his Vodafone Oaks winner, Reams Of Verse. "Reams Of Verse has races like the Yorkshire Oaks to go later on," Cecil said. The Newmarket trainer won the Irish Oaks with Alydar in 1989 and Dimmundo, who dead-heated with Melodist, 12 months previously.

market's July meeting, on Craigsteel. His characteristic air of foppish leisure deserted him as, thunder in his eyes and a tremble in his voice, he accused the media of exaggeration and irresponsibility.

As it happens, these precise charges have been levelled at the champion trainer, who had expressed his ire in the baldest possible language on Sunday. "I like Kieren, and I

haven't seen him do anything wrong," said Cecil. "He's got a good, good, to him, head. I'm not sure he's got a pocket at that stage, and he could have gone to the outside then, instead of heading for the rail."

Another senior trainer, Peter Walwyn, confessed to

not wanting to see him slumped about and chewed up, he now protested. The decision that he should be replaced on Wafic Said's horses was taken "having spoken to the owners, and in the horses' best interests".

In calmer vein, Cecil went

on to elaborate exactly where he felt the Eclipse had been lost. It was not, as general-

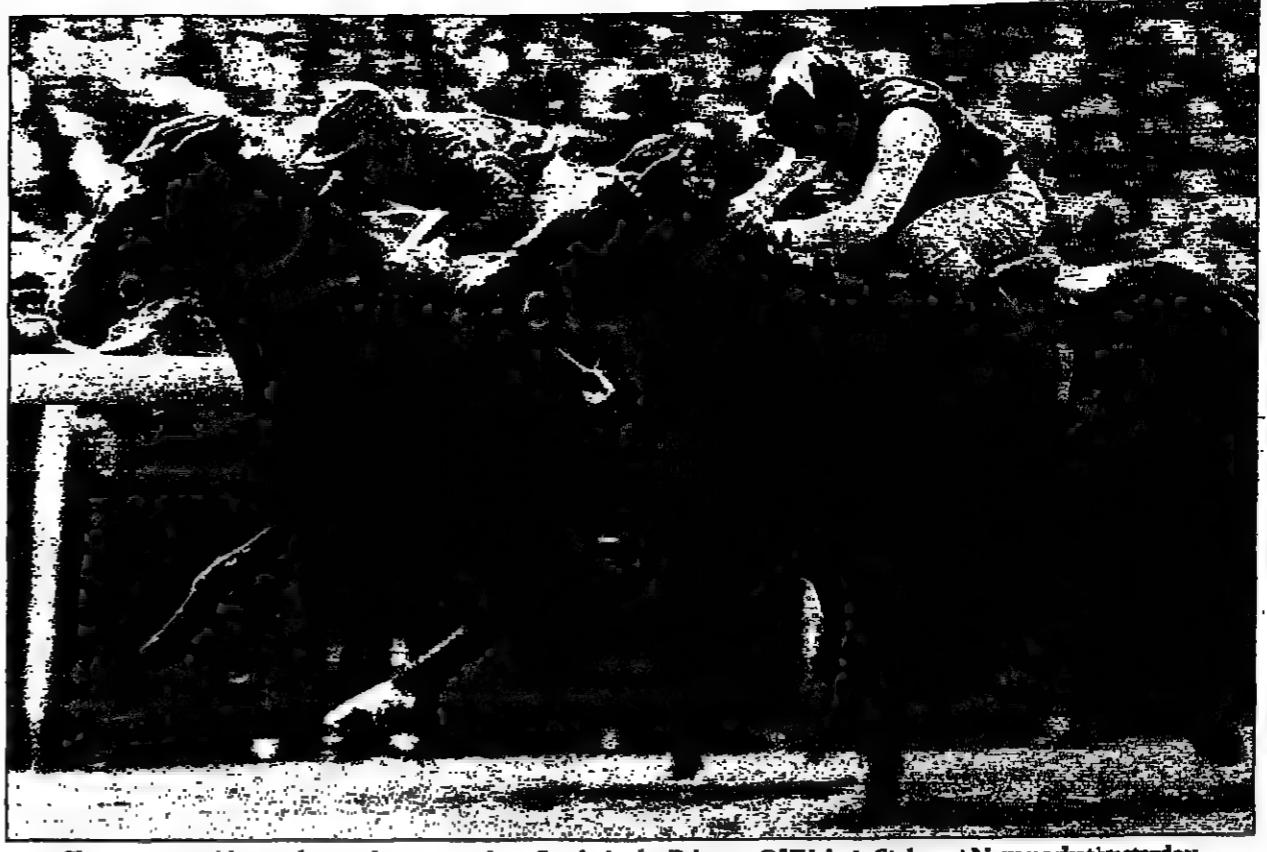
having flinched as he watched the Eclipse unfold, saying: "It was like watching a rat going into a bottle." But Fallon sturdily retains not only his composure, but also his conviction that he could not have done anything differently on Bosra Sham, given the way the race was run.

"Mr Cecil is disappointed, but I hope I can change that by the end of the year. There are 200 other horses in the yard, and hopefully I can still ride them."

In proportion to his championship rival's woes, Frankie Dettori seems to be growing in confidence. Yesterday he rode a treble, highlighted by a photo-finish success for Shantou in the Princess Of Wales's Stakes. The St Leger winner takes plenty of knowing, and Dettori had been released from his commitment to the runner-up, Swain. "You can only get away with the stick a few times with Shantou. He's a tough guy, and you don't want to upset him."

The same is true of Fallon, but he will need all his resolve to pull this one out of the fire.

Simon Barnes, page 43



Shantou, nearside, produces a late run to deny Swain in the Princess Of Wales's Stakes at Newmarket yesterday

NEWMARKET

THUNDERER

2.05 Light Programme
2.35 BOLD FACT (nap)
3.10 Amyas

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:
5.20 MEDIA STAR.
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.05 Light Programme, 3.10 Priena.
4.45 DAGGERS DRAWN (nap).

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 04042 GOOD TIMES 74 (20, F.G.B.) (Mrs D Robinson) B Heat 9-10-0 5 Wins (4) 88
Record number. Draw in brackets. So-far-judged
heat if — has pulled up. D — unrateable
heat if — has been declared. D — disqualified. H — head. Days
prior to racing. J — Jumps. F — Flat. (B)
B — course won. D — distance won.

GOING: GOOD
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

2.05 MORE O'FERRALL STAKES

(3-Y-O: £5,481 1m 20) (12 runners)
101 (7) DR MARTINS (1st) 4th
2 LIGHT PROGRAMME 18 (K Abdulla) H Cash 4-0
102 (11) O PRINCE (LOR) 334 (K Wilson) D Cogges 4-0
103 (11) RICARDO (K Abdulla) R Chantrell 4-0
104 (12) BOLD FACT (K Abdulla) R Chantrell 4-0
105 (8) 43 DONHEAD STAR 7 (B) 4th Whitley P Kellaway 8-8
106 (8) MARYLINA (14 R) 4th Aga Khan L Curran 8-8
107 (2) 5 POLENTA 27 (K Stutter) J Gordon 8-8
108 (4) PRADESH (Shahzad Ahmed) J Gordon 8-8
109 (1) 6 BAGHRA 276 (Shahzad Ahmed) J Gordon 8-8
110 (2) 7 BASHRA (Shahzad Ahmed) J Gordon 8-8
111 (2) 8 WATER FLOWER 64 (K Whitley) J Gordon 8-8
BETTING: 15-4 Light Programme, 4-1 Sirena, 7-1 Marylina, Potenza, 8-1 Donhead Star, Shatica, 10-1 Dr Martins, 12-1 Bashiqa, 14-1 Amyas.

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BOXING

Commission may show Tyson undue leniency

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT, IN LAKE TAHOE

EVEN as the Nevada State Athletic Commission prepares to deliver its verdict on Mike Tyson for disgracing his sport, the former world champion is beginning to emerge in some boxing circles as a cult-hero. Powerful and influential forces do not want to see Tyson disappear from the boxing scene for too long. For such is the interest in his next contest that when Don King, his promoter, is able to put him on again, he would have no trouble filling stadiums as large as the LA Colosseum or Soldier Field, Chicago. Pay-per-view would be astronomical.

Casino Palace, Las Vegas, has said it would gladly put on Tyson when he returns, if MGM does not renew its contract with him. Even Donald Trump, the owner of several casinos in Atlantic City, believes Tyson has become a promoter's dream.

All around you hear "yes, but" as, more and more, Tyson's action is seen being box by people simply as a part of the seamy side of a sport that has been thought over the years to be a world of lovable rogues, who do no more than add colour to the game.

Frank Maloney, Lennox Lewis's manager, believes that the whole thing has been blown out of all proportion. "The one thing that matters in boxing is dollar bills," he said. "Tyson's next fight will be the biggest in the history of the sport. How could I not promote it if the opportunity arose?"

It is hard to believe that barely a fortnight ago, Tyson was being seen in the same circles as a despicable cheat, seeking a way out of certain defeat against Holyfield. Now Tyson has become the saviour of the sport. Some people appear to have forgotten the sight of Tyson chewing at Holyfield's ears.

The enormity of Tyson's act was vividly illustrated in an article in *New Scientist*. Tom Kortok of the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry, said: "Tyson's teeth exerted a force of 20 kilograms, while most of us exert a force of 10kg. He was shearing and tearing, which is almost alligator-like. The ear is mainly cartilage. You have to exert a lot of pressure to bite through it." What would Maloney have thought?

If Tyson had attacked Lewis in the same way?

All this of course goes against the grain of public thinking. According to a poll conducted by CBS, 85 per cent believe that Tyson should be given a ban for life. So it is not surprising that members of the public, sports enthusiasts and leading sports columnists in the United States are beginning to fear that the Nevada State Athletic Commission might bow to casino pressure.

Jim Thomas, Holyfield's lawyer, said: "Holyfield has no direct interest in punishing Tyson. Boxing is at the crossroads. All the world is watching. If Mike Tyson is not severely punished, then the wrong message will be sent. Evander wants to see that boxing resumes as an honourable sport."

Those who control the sport in Nevada are making many people believe that a deal may already have been made behind the scenes. King is thought to have been working overtime to see that Tyson is not out of action for too long.

However, Gordy Fink, Nevada's senior Deputy Attorney-General, said that the commission would be revoking Tyson's licence. "Revoked means revoked," Fink said. "Tyson loses his licence indefinitely." He added that it would be up to Tyson to apply for a new licence and prove that he is worthy of getting one.

Since the incident, the Nevada legislature has approved a bill to confiscate the entire purse of boxers who bite or commit similar offences, which suggests that a ban will not be imposed on Tyson.

Since Oliver McCall was recently fined \$20,000 and suspended for a year by the commission for refusing to put up a fight against Lewis, Tyson can scarcely expect a similar ban. McCall was a drug addict and a sick man, who was not responsible for his actions in the ring and who should never have been allowed to fight. So, almost certainly, Tyson's ban would have to be for more than a year. It only remains for the commission to decide what period would prove a punitive suspension for a man like Tyson.

If Tyson were a lesser figure, he would almost certainly have been given a life ban or be out for at least four years.

The England bowlers let Australia regroup when they had them on

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Newmarket

Going good

1-1000, Coggeshall (P. Polley, 5-4) 1st. 2. 1000, Newmarket (P. Polley, 5-4) 1st. 3. 1000, Newmarket (P. Polley, 5-4) 1st. 4. 1000, Newmarket (P. Polley, 5-4) 1st. 5. 1000, Newmarket (P. Polley, 5-4) 1st. 6. 1000, Newmarket (P. Polley, 5-4) 1st. 7. 1000, Newmarket (P. Polley, 5-4) 1st. 8. 1000, Newmarket (P. Polley, 5-4) 1st. 9. 1000, Newmarket (P. Polley, 5-4) 1st. 10. 1000, Newmarket (P. Polley, 5-4) 1st. 11. 1000, Newmarket (P. Polley, 5-4) 1st. 12. 1000, Newmarket (P. Polley, 5-4) 1st. 13. 1000, Newmarket (P. Polley, 5-4) 1st. 14. 1000, Newmarket (P. Polley, 5-4) 1st. 15. 1000, Newmarket (P. Polley, 5-4) 1st. 16. 1000, Newmarket (P. Polley, 5-4) 1st. 17. 1000, Newmarket (P. Polley, 5-4) 1st. 18. 1000, Newmarket (P. Polley, 5-4) 1st. 19. 1000, Newmarket (P. Polley, 5-4) 1st. 20. 1000, Newmarket (P. Polley, 5-4) 1st. 21. 1000, Newmarket (P. Polley, 5-4) 1st. 22. 1000, Newmarket (P. Polley, 5-4) 1st. 23. 1000, Newmarket (P. Polley, 5-4) 1st. 24. 1000, Newmarket (P. 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CYCLING

Riis prepares to make his move

FROM JEREMY WHITTLE IN PLUMELEC

BJARNE RIIS, the defending Tour de France champion, sent an ominous message to the field yesterday at the climax of a dramatic third stage in the rolling countryside of Brittany.

While Riis's team-mate, Erik Zabel, wearing the green jersey as leader of the Tour's points classification, won a tough uphill sprint to the finish in Plumelec, the Dane climbed impressively to a comfortable third place, just ahead of Chris Boardman, of Great Britain, who once again demonstrated that he is in excellent form.

"I feel a lot better after that," Riis said. "I am always confident but today gives me better morale for the days still to come." Tony Rominger, of Switzerland, second in the race in 1993, and a past winner of the Tours of Spain and Italy, crashed out of the race after another big collision just 15 kilometres from Plumelec.

The mass fall on narrow and roughly surfaced roads left 50 riders, including Riis, Boardman and Jan Ullrich, of Germany, clear of the rest of the field. Alex Zulle, the 1996 Tour de Spain winner, Marco Pantani, of Italy, and Luc Leblanc, the former world champion, were among the majority of the Tour's 196 riders left to clamber unsteadily to their feet again.

TOUR DETAILS

THIRD STAGE (160km to Plumelec): 20km; 1. E Zabel (Ger, Telekom) 4hr 54min 33sec; 2. Vandenbrouck (Bel, Mapfre) 2. 8 sec; 3. Dero, Telekom; 4. J. Ullrich (Ger, Telekom); 5. L. Leblanc (Fra, Ag2r); 6. A. Zulle (Fra, Banesto); 7. J. C. Robin (Fr, US Postal Service); 8. J. Lichon (Fra, Telekom); 9. C. Boardman (GB, Motorola); 10. C. Gant (GB, Giro); 11. A. B. (Bel, Cervelo); 12. H. Bäumer (Aust, Rabobank); 13. P. Lünenberg (Aust, Rabobank); 14. L. Rominger (Switzerland); 15. C. Bonacina (It, GAN); 16. A. B. (Bel, Cervelo); 17. V. Buvignier (Switzerland); 18. P. F. (Switzerland); 19. A. C. (It, Erosa); 20. K. K. (It, Giro); 21. J. C. (It, Giro); 22. J. J. (It, Giro); 23. M. Scenon (It, Giro); 24. J. J. (It, Giro); 25. M. Scenon (It, Giro); 26. J. J. (It, Giro); 27. M. Scenon (It, Giro); 28. J. J. (It, Giro); 29. M. Scenon (It, Giro); 30. J. J. (It, Giro); 31. M. Scenon (It, Giro); 32. M. Scenon (It, Giro); 33. M. Scenon (It, Giro); 34. M. Scenon (It, Giro); 35. M. Scenon (It, Giro); 36. 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CRICKET

Surrey prepare for days of destiny

By SIMON WILDE

THE next four days will tell if this is indeed to be Surrey's great year, the great year that everybody predicted for them when they won what is now the Axa Life League last September. The burden of going 14 years without a trophy lifted, it seemed inevitable that the "team of all the talents" would go on to fulfil their enormous potential.

Frustratingly for those at the Oval, it has not been quite like that, especially in the Britannia Assurance county championship, the prize that Surrey, who were last champions in 1971, covet above all others. Their four-day form has bewildered onlookers and the expected surge towards the top of the table has not materialised.

With their defence of the Sunday league also faltering, everything appears to depend on their progress in the NatWest Trophy, in which they meet Nottinghamshire at the Oval in the second round today, and the Benson and Hedges Cup final against Kent at Lord's on Saturday. Defeat in both might leave the club close to disarray.

"Recent history shows that the teams who win the county championship are those with solid sides and we suffer more than most from international calls," David Gilbert.

Whitehorn starts second innings

By SARAH POTTER

SWEET old dear can be loved or loathed but every amateur sport needs them. Women's cricket has Norma Whitehorn. She became treasurer of the Women's Cricket Association (WCA) in 1952 and her unbroken tenure lasted 30 years, making her the longest-serving officer in the history of the association. Now, 15 years later, the 66-year-old is back in control of the purse-strings.

Had Whitehorn's principles not been as straight as her bat, she might have continued without a break. However, in 1962, she felt compelled to offer her resignation when money "raised in the association's name was

not going through the books", she explained. Proceeds from fundraising games were being used to reimburse the costs of international players against her wishes.

"To my mind, it was in breach of the WCA's constitution," Whitehorn said. "I accept it was a fine line, but I was not happy with it."

Last year the WCA faced the embarrassing prospect of not having a treasurer. Nobody seemed willing to take on the task and so Whitehorn was persuaded to begin her second term. Having recently retired, she is happy to take the time between balancing the books and indulging her latest sporting passion, playing bowls whenever possible for her local club.

Whitehorn's interest in cricket was encouraged by her father and visits to the Oval to watch Surrey were a regular treat. She joined Wallington Hockey Club in 1948 and found that most of the women took to cricket during the summer months. Whitehorn's love of sums soon guided her into an administrative role.

"In those days, when people took office, it was generally the custom that you stayed," she said.

Despite a long playing career for Wallington and Surrey, Whitehorn never represented England. She was on the shortlist to tour South Africa in 1960, but suffered a scooter accident a fortnight before the final trial. She did travel to Durban, as secretary

of the International Women's Cricket Council, watched some of the cricket and came home with the team. Any suggestion of regret, though, is quickly swotted away.

"It's not really a source of regret because I have an England blazer," Whitehorn said. "I was part of the management team that took the England Under-25 squad to India in 1981. To me, that is as much an honour as having physically played."

Whitehorn struggles to balance the need to move with the times against the coloured clothing being mooted for players, but traditional dress only will be worn at Singleton Cricket Club in Sussex, this Sunday, to mark the 250th anniversary of what the organisers say was the first recorded women's match.

The Maids of Singleton and Charlton played the Maids of Chigwell and West Dean on July 13, 1745, in front of a crowd of more than 3,000, who paid £80 in gate-money. Local women villagers will re-enact the event, wearing period costume and using equipment from the 18th century.

Once this celebration of the past is complete, Somerset Wanderers and Shepperton will contest a quarter-final tie of the women's Tilney knockout cup. Sponsorship, you see, is one of the ways forward for women's cricket. It also keeps the treasurer happy.

Whitehead makes his mark

EXTRA



COVER

Roses game on July 21 will be a sight in itself. To avoid damaging the outfield, cranes outside the ground will hoist the lights over the stands.

This is just something else to occupy the thoughts of Mohan Kripalani, an accountant from Kent, who has taken four months off work to promote the event. At least, after the washout of the Axa Life League game between Surrey and Nottinghamshire last month, he will have the satisfaction of staging the first floodlit game at an authentic cricket ground in England. Weather permitting, of course.

Find the bat

Time is running out for Lawrence Mallinson. Sixteen years ago, he inherited bat from his grandfather that was sliced open and hinged to bear the autographs of each Australian tour party since 1930. Signatures of the 1961 and 1985 squads took up the remaining

space and so Mallinson started a second bat.

Two years ago, the new bat was stolen and Mallinson has just six weeks to recover it to add the autographs of Mark Taylor's vintage. There is a reward: either £500 worth of apple juice or cider from his fruit farm or £300 cash. Any information on 0181 874 7158 will be received gratefully.

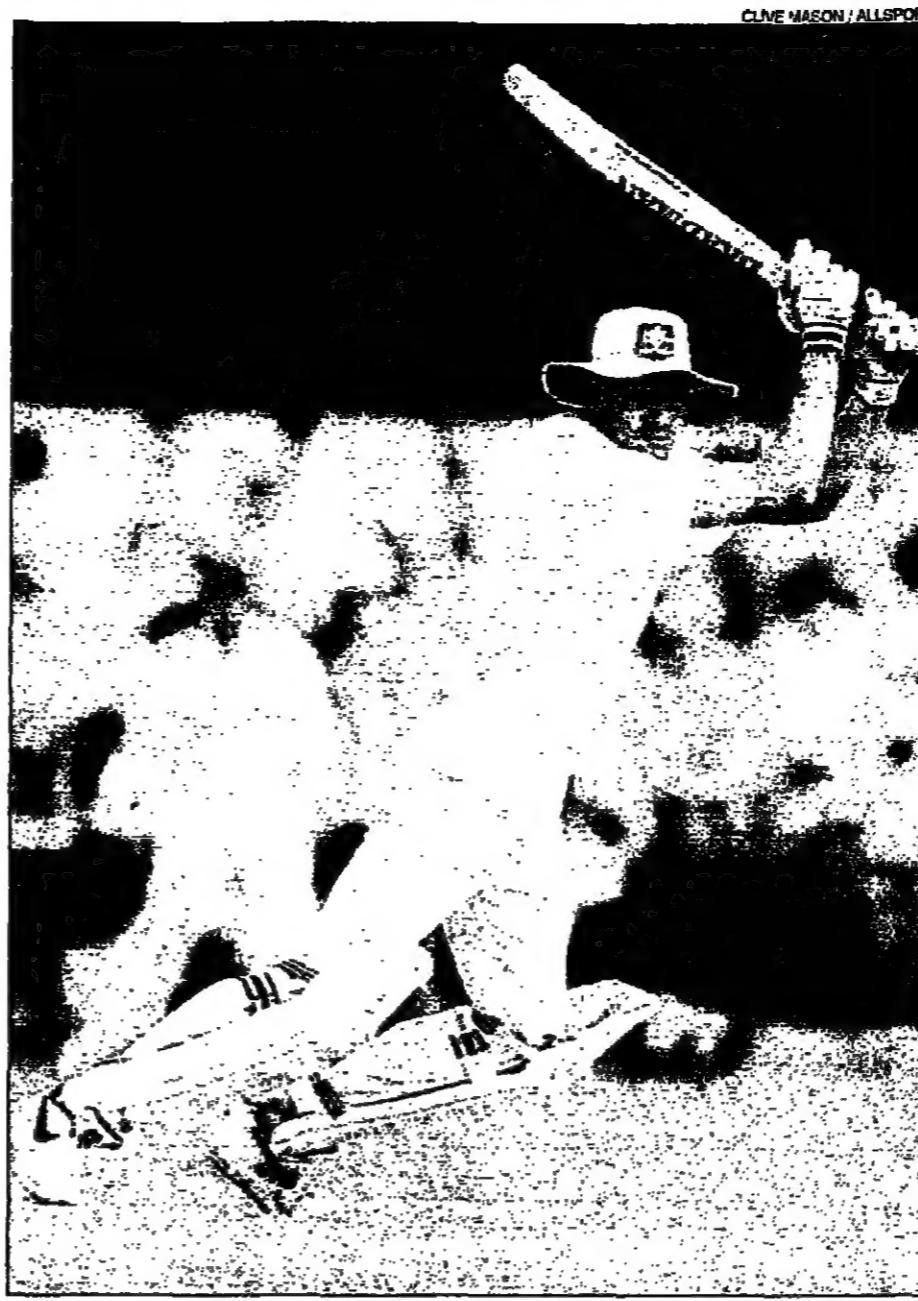
Ames memorial

No less an authority than Sir Donald Bradman described Les Ames as "indisputably the greatest batsman-wicket-keeper who ever lived". This is part of a tribute to the former Kent and England player that will be hung in the new Les Ames Memorial Pavilion at Harvey Grammar School in Folkestone, where Ames was a pupil from 1916-22. Sir Colin Cowdrey conducts the official opening on July 22.

England all out

No England players make the World One-Day XI as chosen by contributors to Cricinfo, an Internet website. Sachin Tendulkar tops the poll with 1,098 votes, ahead of Brian Lara (1,034) and Shane Warne (981). The team: Tendulkar, Lara, De Silva, M Waugh, Saeed Anwar, S Waugh, Healy, Wasim Akram, Warne, Ambrose, Donald.

FATHER TIMES



Julian gets into the festive mood by driving through the covers yesterday

Big-hitter Julian joins in the fun

By MICHAEL AUSTIN

JESMOND (the Australians won toss): The Australians beat Minor Counties by nine runs

elling uninterrupted innings. Mark Fell, at wide mid-on, held a stunning, two-handed catch to his right from a full toss ferociously struck by Slater.

The touring team were then 53 for three, having earlier lost Langer and Ponting in four balls. Simon Oakes, the Lincolnshire fast-medium bowler, took two wickets and Marcus Sharp, from Cumberland, also prospered. For the Australians, Darren Berry marked his debut with a one-handed catch at the wicket to dismiss Fell.

This compact ground has fostered big-hitting feats, with the adjacent rooftops and cemetery being bombarded, but Julian's innings was historically among the best.

He bats at No 9 for Western Australia, was at No 8 for Surrey last summer when scoring two first-class hundreds and has Test ambitions.

If Michael Bevan loses his place, Julian, with left-arm swing bowling alongside his batting, will be in the contenders' queue, but still behind Justin Langer, Michael Slater and Ricky Ponting, ironically all of whom failed here.

Julian's first 50 runs occupied 64 balls, his next, just 15, with his final ten-ball advance producing 43 runs along the way to a century reading: 6.0.1.6.2.4.6.6.

This rich entertainment inevitably foreshadowed anticlimax, though the part-timers bowled, batted and especially, fielded worthily during a gru-

ELLIOT (Australia): The Australians won toss; The Australians beat Minor Counties by nine runs

FESTIVE fun featured on the Australian schedule after the triumphant rigours of Old Trafford. Brendon Julian feasted on the bowling with 106, with eight sixes and nine fours from 86 balls, and the crowd trundled home happily, especially after Ian Cockbain, the Minor Counties captain, made a half-century from 67 balls.

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Fast lane beckons one of Formula One's emerging talents

Fisichella on the road to riches

BRIAN GLANVILLE



A tired in Jordan's garish mustard-coloured livery, Giancarlo Fisichella, a tiny 24-year-old Roman, resembles a shy schoolboy off to a fancy dress party. Once behind the wheel of a Formula One car, however, he is a competitor to be reckoned with.

Fourth in San Marino, third in Canada, Fisichella has become hot property in Formula One this season. Whether his future will be with Jordan, to whom he is on loan, remains to be seen, however. His mentor is the saturnine Flavio Briatore, of Benetton, and though Fisichella expects to see out the second year of his contract with Jordan, he may join Benetton then.

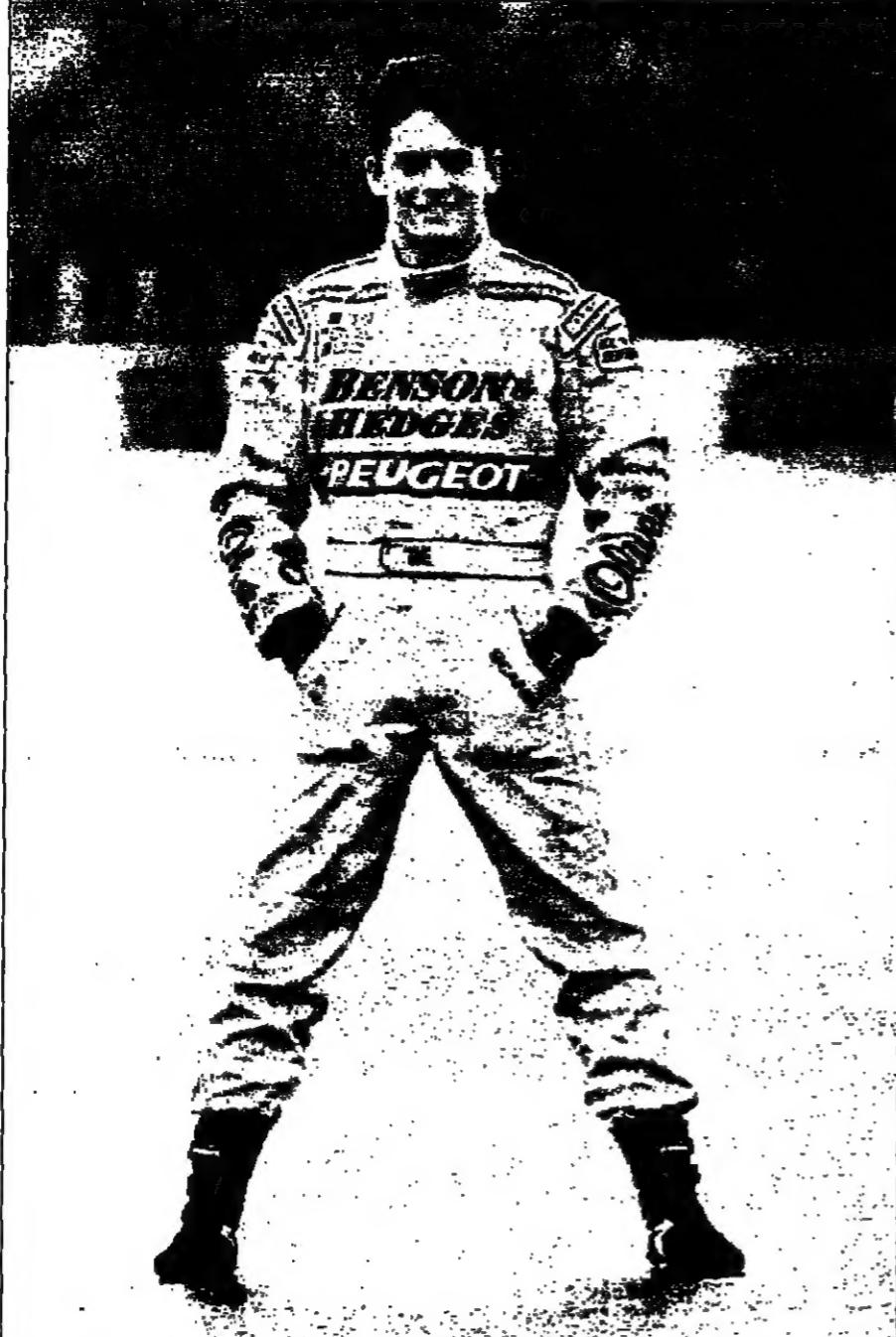
The "Tiburtino Arrow", as he is nicknamed, seems destined for better things and Jordan are expected to show well at the British Grand Prix on Sunday, raced on their home track at Silverstone. Fisichella has been behind a wheel since he was eight and if there is such a thing as a stage mother, then Fisichella can be said to have a kind of track father.

Fisichella Sr, a Sicilian from Catania who moved north to Rome, runs a body shop there and, says his son, "is a great fan of Formula One, and this he passed on to me. I watched all the big races with him".

Fisichella went karting for many years, becoming Italian champion in 1994. The step from go-karts to the real thing was imminent and logical. The next year, Minardi gave him a testing contract, and he competed with Alfa Romeo in international touring car races.

In 1996 he drove in Formula One for Minardi, making his grand prix debut in Australia, where he did not finish, and achieving his highest placing in the Canadian Grand Prix where he was eighth.

Enter Briatore. "He looks after my future," Fisichella said, simply. "Last year, I did a test for Briatore in October at Estoril. After this test, he wanted to meet me, brought me to England and offered



Fisichella can enhance his reputation in the British Grand Prix on Sunday

me a contract. He is a very important figure for me, helping me a lot. I hope to go ahead with him in the coming years."

Third place in Montreal last month showed that Briatore's confidence was justified. It was Jordan's second

third place of the year, the first having been taken by Ralf Schumacher, the younger brother of the formidable Michael. Thereby hangs another tale, though: it was Jordan who gave Michael Schumacher his chance in Formula One before Briatore

took him to Benetton, where he became world champion.

Fisichella thinks that he might even have taken second place in Montreal, where the race was stopped by an accident involving Olivier Panis, were it not for the deterioration of his tyres, although

Engaged to a Roman girl,

Fisichella has been spending time in Oxfordshire studying English with a young Italian who had been teaching at an Oxford school. While Fisichella, as a football fan, is "romantista cento per cento" (100 per cent for Roma, rather than their cross-town rivals, Lazio); his teacher admits that he is one of the few Italian males with no interest in football.

Fisichella has a home in Monte Carlo, but "my real home is in Rome," he said. He displays the fearlessness of the true racing driver. "I had many accidents, but I'm not afraid. I just get back in the car and go as fast as I can. When I'm on the track, I feel great. I always want to be out there. I always want to race."

Heroes? "Lauda and then Senna. I like Lauda a lot, the way he drove. Senna because I saw he was superior to all the other drivers." Briatore, fame and fortune beckon.

TWR Arrows, the Formula One team on which Damon Hill pinned his hopes after becoming world champion last season, suffered another setback yesterday when Jordan announced that they had signed a two-year deal to use Mugen-Honda engines. Hill's team, which has been beset by problems this season, had been hoping to sign Jordan to challenge for the world championship.

"This is another significant milestone for Jordan Grand Prix," he said. "We have

worked hard for a long time to earn this opportunity. Our partnership with Mugen-Honda will provide additional strength and depth to our package plus an unparalleled commitment to success."

Gerhard Berger, the Austrian driver, will miss the British Grand Prix at Silverstone on Sunday as he continues to recover from a sinus operation. Berger will again be replaced in the Benetton-Renault by his compatriot, Alexander Wurz.

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RACING 42

Fallon threatened with loss of another top ride

SPORT

WEDNESDAY JULY 9 1997

BOXING 43

Sport under scrutiny as Tyson awaits his judgment day

Selectors stand by beaten team
England make statement of Ashes intent

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

IN A move as thoughtful as it was unusual, the England cricket selectors yesterday made a virtue of a setback, reaffirming their faith in the players beaten at Old Trafford by naming them all for the fourth Ashes Test at Headingly, almost a fortnight ahead of schedule.

David Graveney, the chairman, took the decision on Monday after talking to his fellow selectors and to the captain and coach. The XI that lost heavily in Manchester is retained, along with Philip Tufnell, in a pared down party of 12.

The players were told of their reprieve before leaving Old Trafford and Graveney made the announcement yesterday before going to watch his daughter's school sports day. "It is the right thing to do at this stage," he said. "It shows our faith in the players, our belief that they are the best we have."

Mike Smith seems unfortunate to be stood down from the squad on a ground where conditions are sure to suit him, but he is among five players also reporting to Headingley on Sunday, July 20 for an extended programme of preparation. Devon Malcolm, another omitted for the forthcoming game, is also in this group, along with Ashley Cowan and the Hollisake brothers, Adam and Ben.

Under the regular timetable, the squad would not have been announced until that Sunday, four days before the game begins. Graveney, however, dramatically advanced the process for two reasons. He was keen to avoid prolonged, unhealthy speculation and to give his deflated players "the right sort of vote of confidence".

It might be thought that they are unworthy of it and there will be those who will

say so. By the admission of David Lloyd, the coach, England played "substandard cricket" throughout the five days at Old Trafford and the instant reaction to such shortcomings has traditionally been a clamour for change that the selectors have been unwilling to resist.

With an extra week's break in mid-series — a break, significantly, with no championship cricket for the selectors to observe — the pressure to tinker with the team would have built to a crescendo and the populist vote for the Hollisake

has lost its grip.

England have lost momentum at an unfortunate time, but to break up the unit that has been together for some while could only have been to its detriment. Previous selectors have erred by changing the team too often, making it impossible for the building of team unity that has been a feature of England's cricket in the past few months. The present panel — including two recent Test captains who have seen the follies of the past — are determined to foster continuity and, so long as they can do so without encouraging complacency, they are demonstrably in the right.

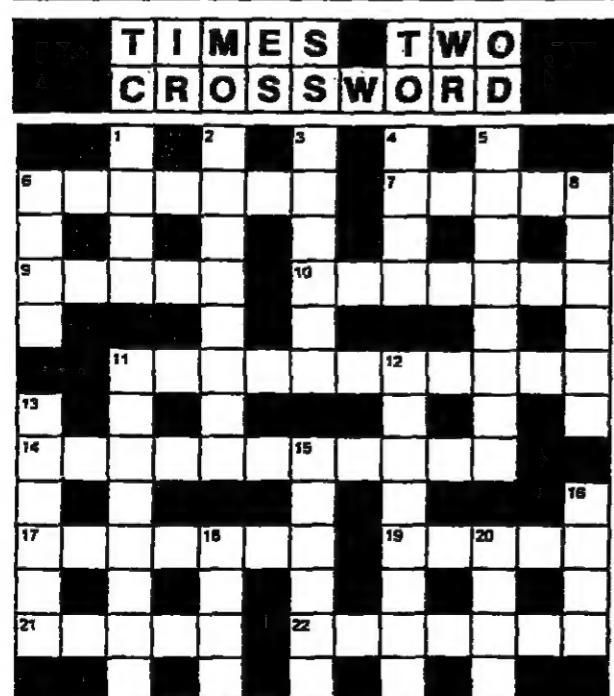
I would have retained the option of Smith's swing ahead of Caddick's sometimes lethargic seam, but Graveney emphasises that a late change can still be made if exceptional conditions suggest it.

The early gathering at Headingley was planned as long ago as March, at the instigation of Lloyd, and will include a reprise of the type of management training that the players underwent recently. Whether driving Land Rovers through a forest blindfold will properly prepare them for batting against Shane Warne is, of course, a nice point. What this does show is the continuing advance in professionalism of the England management. Not only is it being pro-active in its planning, it is also communicating with players and public. It is almost unheard of.

Graveney, about to take a brief mid-season break in Spain, explained the philosophy of the training day. "It would have happened even if we were 2-0 up, but it is perhaps especially beneficial at 1-1," he said. "It is obvious what we have to do now and it begins with gathering our thoughts in order to recapture the intensity that we mislaid at Old Trafford. We must not be dictated to in our cricket."

A third thing worth emphasising is that the series is level.

It is the series that is level.



No 1141

ACROSS
 6 Environs (7)
 7 Condemns (5)
 9 Landing pier (5)
 10 Cherry Orchard playwright (7)
 11 Iron hand may be concealed here (6,5)
 14 Easily win (contest); steal (3,4,4)
 17 Close-together group (7)
 19 Agent (eg to vote for one) (5)
 21 Cold rice/raw fish dish (5)
 22 Commiserate (7)

SOLUTION TO NO 1140
 ACROSS: 8 Egriant, 9 Peacock, 10 Breakneck, 11 Ida, 12 Linen, 14 Diocese, 15 Serpent, 17 Extra, 19 Ida, 20 Repignant, 22 Moose, 23 Linkage

DOWN: 1 Verbal, 2 Mine, 3 Broken-hearted, 4 Impend, 5 Spike, one's guns, 6 Manifest, 7 Secure, 13 Narrator, 15 Sigma, 16 Topple, 18 Antler, 21 Afar

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 1136
 In association with BRITISH MIDLAND

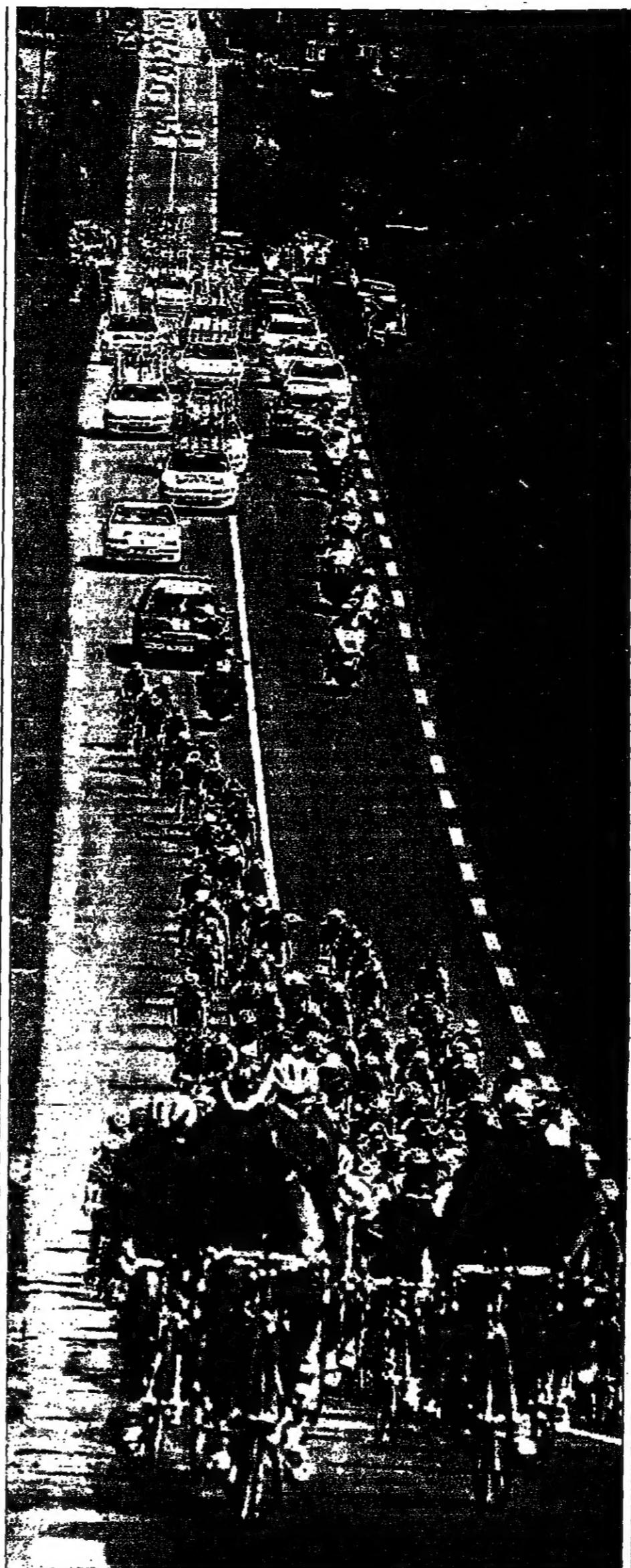
ACROSS: 1 Likewise, 5 Flop, 9 Sheaf, 10 Nefesis, 11 Reserve, 12 Egypt, 13 Proofread, 18 Asset, 20 Upgrade, 22 Who's Who, 23 Attic, 24 Nell, 25 Producer

DOWN: 1 Lustre, 2 Knees-up, 3 Wafer, 4 Sense of humour, 6 Lusty, 7 Pestle, 8 Impede, 14 Ottawa, 15 Drastic, 16 Darwin, 17 Fencer, 19 Stool, 21 Gland

1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic or international network is M Bennett, Rothsay, Isle of Bute.

2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic network is D Langton, Lichfield, Staffordshire.

All flights subject to availability.



The Tour de France moved from Normandy through Brittany yesterday on a stage marred by another mass crash near the finish at Plumelec. Report, page 44

Ince set to follow Murphy as Liverpool take transfer action

By DAVID MADDOCK

AFTER months of attempting to find fresh faces, Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, has finally discovered the impetus in the transfer market that he believes is required to project Liverpool towards championship honours. Evans said yesterday that he has made two signings, with at least one more imminent.

Liverpool unveiled Danny Murphy, 19, the Crewe Alexandra midfield player who has attracted interest from a host of FA Carling Premiership sides, as his first signing of what promises to be a significant week. Evans also indicated that the transfer of Paul Ince, from Internazionale, will be completed before Friday.

The Liverpool manager also indicated that he is searching for a forward of international repute to complete his plans for next season. Evans said that he still harbours interest

in Fabrizio Ravanelli, the Middlesbrough and Italy striker, but would not budge from his £7 million valuation. He added that he also has several other targets, including Jari Litmanen, the Finland international who plays for Ajax.

Across the city at Everton, Howard Kendall, the new manager, has been quoted a £6 million transfer fee for Les Ferdinand, the Newcastle United and England forward. Kendall made his inquiry this week and looks likely to pursue the matter.

Chris Waddle started work as the new manager of Burnley yesterday after the departure of the previous incumbent, Adrian Heath. In Kendall's assistant, Waddle will continue to play and his ambitions were clearly spelt out at his first press conference.

"I haven't come here to hang around in the Nationwide League second division, I am looking to get us promoted in my first season," Waddle said. "I know all about this club. There is a strong connection with the North East, where I am from, and I know they have a massive support. It is my job to give the supporters what they want, which is the success this club deserves."

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